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APPENDIX

TO THE

REPORT

ON THE

AFFAIRS

OF

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ac

THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.

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II.

China Papers.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
11 *October* 1831.

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RETURN to an Order of the Select Committee of the Honourable House of Commons on the Affairs of the East India Company, dated 1st July 1831;—*requiring,*

A COPY of the CORRESPONDENCE between the Chinese Government, the Chief of the English Factory of Canton, and the Court of Directors, respecting any alleged Breach of the Laws of China, subsequent to the Departure of Mr. Plowden and the Succession of Mr. Baynes; stating the grounds of difference between the Chief and the China Government, and the Proceedings thereon; also, such Official Papers as relate to the Death of Mr. Mackenzie at Canton, and Proceedings thereon, up to the latest period.

(A.)—*Papers relating to the alleged Breach of the Laws of China.*

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(B.)—*Papers relating to the Death of Mr. Mackenzie at Canton.*

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COPIES of any ORDERS given by the Chief or Committee of the English Factory to the Commanders of the Company's Ships, respecting the bringing up of an Armed Force to Canton, and regarding the using Force to proceed up or down the River, and the Answers thereto; and also such Orders for sailing from Whampoa as may have been issued to the Company's Ships without taking out a Port Clearance, or Grand Chop.

(C.)—*Papers relating to an Armed Force for the Protection of the Company's Factory at Canton.*

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(D.)—*Papers relating to Orders for Ships moving down the River to return the Fire of the Forts, &c. of the Chinese.*

EXTRACTS China Consultations; dated respectively,

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RETURN to an Order of the Select Committee of the Honourable House of Commons on the Affairs of the East India Company, dated 8th July 1831;—*requiring*,

EXTRACTS of so much of the LETTERS in their Public and Secret Departments of the Select Committee of Supracargoes at Canton, to the Court of Directors of the East India Company, as relates to Communications which have taken place between them and the Chinese Local Authorities, whether Mandarins or Hong Merchants, relative to the Redress of Grievances, or the Acquisition or Assertion of Privileges, since the 1st January 1810, and down to the latest period to which the same may be procurable.

(E.)—*Papers relating to the Redress of Grievances, or the Acquisition or Assertion of Privileges.*

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"Furthermore, with severity and earnestness, make responsible and command the said Hong Merchants and Linguists to enjoin the order on the said nation's Chief, that hereafter the said foreigners, going from their Factories to their boats, and from their boats to their Factories, must all, as of old, walk on foot; they must not overstep their proper station or rank, and go about in chairs. If they presume purposely to oppose, immediately shall the said Hong Merchants and Linguists be degraded and examined, without any clemency being extended to them. Hasten! hasten!!"

On the receipt of this, besides causing the Nan-hae-Heen to examine and report back to me, I also, uniting the above circumstances, issue an order to examine into the subject. When the order reaches the said merchants, let them immediately examine clearly why the said foreigner, who has come from Macao to Canton, enters the Factory seated in a chair? Whether the said merchants knew of the circumstance, and purposely connived at it or not; or whether there are some worthless vagabonds who have brooked to flatter, thereby leading to the foreigner's presuming to this act of non-conformity to old usage? Besides this, whether or not there have heretofore been any other foreigners going out and in seated in chairs? Examine into these things clearly one by one; then taking with you the Linguists first, go to the Nan-hae-Heen with a prepared statement, and wait till he has managed the business to the utmost. Also present a prepared statement to me, that I may investigate to the bottom. Furthermore, with severity and earnestness enjoin the order on the said nation's Chief, that hereafter the said foreigners, in going from their Factories to their boats, and from their boats to their Factories, must, as of old, walk on foot; they must not overstep their proper station or rank, and go about in chairs. If they presume purposely to oppose, immediately shall the said Hong Merchants and Linguists be degraded and examined, without any clemency being extended to them. Hasten, hasten! These are the orders.

Taoukwang, 10th year, 8th month, 25th day, (October 11th, 1830.)

We refrain at the present moment from any comment on the spirit and tenor of these documents, and merely remark, that in consequence of the Edict respecting foreigners sitting in sedan chairs, which appears to be published with no other object than that of wantonly irritating their minds, we came to the resolution of manifesting, in some degree to the Chinese public, that the insult had not passed unnoticed. We consequently directed the following placard, written in Chinese characters, to be forthwith hung up at the gate of each of our Factories, and gave strict orders to see it carried into effect.

To all whom it may concern,

In consequence of a certain occurrence, the Select Committee who direct the affairs of an English Company, have in Council

Resolved, That hereafter every class of persons sitting in sedan chairs shall be disallowed to enter the gate of the Company's Factory. The porter is ordered to intercept all chairs, and prevent their entering. If any person refuses to listen to him, both the chair and the individual will assuredly be expelled by force. Every one will do well not to try the experiment with his person.

Taoukwang, 10th year, 8th moon, 27th day.

EXTRACT China Consultations, dated 16th October 1830.

WE have this day received through the Merchants a chop from the Hoppo, which is a counterpart of the Viceroy's received on the 12th, with the exception of the following concluding remarks made by the Hoppo:

Hoppo Chung's Remarks in communicating the Governor's orders, received October 16th 1830.

"This coming before me the Hoppo, I, on the receipt of it, examined and find, that, for foreign merchants to bring with them married or unmarried women to

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Alleged Breach of Chinese Laws.

Canton to dwell, has already, in the 16th year of Keen-lung (1751), been interdicted by the then Governor Chin, in his official reply, which is on record.

"Afterwards, because that for foreign ships sailing back, it is difficult to approach Macao to receive families (on board), it was requested to go by the inside river to Whampoa to embark, and again that was rejected and disallowed by the then Governor Le. Since for foreign women to be brought even to Whampoa is contrary to the laws, how can there be such a principle as that of presuming to lodge themselves at (Canton) the capital city of a (province.)"

Dated October 13th, 1830, 10th year, 8th moon, 27th day.

EXTRACT China Consultations, 19th October 1830.

A Party of about 80, consisting of commanders, officers and gentlemen of the Factory, this day proceeded to the city gates in charge of the following Address, of which four copies were made, directed to the Viceroy, Hoppo, Foo Yuen, and Iseang Keun, a Tartar general. A party equally numerous, composed of British merchants, and commanders and officers of country ships, had preceded them by about a quarter of an hour with petitions to the Viceroy and Hoppo on the same subject.

Upon waiting about half an hour at the city gates, the Kwankeep appeared and received the several letters, which he promised should be forthwith delivered, according to their respective addresses. The two parties then joined together and returned to the Factory.

Translation of a Chinese Draft of a Memorial to the Governor.

The President and Select Committee, Messrs. Baynes, &c. to his Excellency the Governor, &c., for the purpose of clearing up certain Affairs which concern them.

A respectful Address:—The English who come to Canton for commercial purposes invariably look up with respect and reverence to the Sovereign* of the great Ising dynasty. But among the hundreds of officers of Government appointed, it is unavoidable that there should be an inequality, some good and some bad. Some who, by a thorough understanding of the human feelings, by extending what they themselves like to others, and by a benevolent government, win people's hearts †. On the other hand there are some who, being undiscerning by an irregular use of authority and power, and who from selfish motives rule in a tyrannical and vexatious manner, lose people's hearts.

Is it not one High Heaven that has torn all the nations of mankind? Are they not reciprocally of the same species? It was the same Heaven that gave existence to Manchows and Chinese which gave existence to Englishmen; and with High Heaven there is not a partial heart. China is by Heaven conferred upon the east, and England, by the same Heaven, is conferred on the people of the west. All nations belong to High Heaven; they should not boast against each other ‡.

Since Canton is opened as a mart for foreign trade, it is incumbent to receive men from remote parts with civility; they should not be insulted and treated ignominiously.

But on the 4th of the 8th moon of the current year, there was an official proclamation publicly exhibited, containing many unfounded and disgraceful assertions concerning foreigners. As for example: "It is directed that the Hong Merchants and Linguists shall continually teach the foreigners, repress their pride and profligacy, and insist on their turning with all their hearts towards civilization, &c.§" Now, excepting two or three of the Hong Merchants, they are all without any learning or knowledge, and the custom-house interpreters are a still more ignorant set. The local

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* May he live ten thousand years is implied in the name Wan-Luy-Yay, given him in the original.

† These are Chinese ideas and phrases; below, also, there is a good deal of the same.

‡ This paragraph is intended to undermine the exclusive pretensions of the Celestial Empire, and the Chinese Edicts always pretend to treat with tender kindness.

§ Or conversion, renovation.

Residence of Females; and Sedan Chairs.

local Mandarines calling on them to erect themselves into masters to instruct and teach civilization to foreigners, is indeed very laughable. But as the said Proclamation* says, they must insist on civilizing, &c., it may be seen that the great officers of Government wish to cause the native people to look upon foreigners as all belonging to barbarous nations. This is truly treating with tenderness strangers in the land.

The said Edict further speaks of foreigners using boys, boat, prostitutes, and language deserving of the utmost indignation; for the English consider the crime alluded to deserving of death, and the public intensely hate such unnatural wickedness. How can the great officers of Government, without any the least proof, publish groundless reports, which they have sought for to bring ignominy and disgrace on all foreigners! How is this exemplifying the principle of treating tenderly strangers in the land!

Another official Edict has also been issued concerning foreigners sitting in shoulder-carriages, saying "that foreigners going from the boats to their Factories, and from their Factories to their boats, must walk on foot, and not overstep their rank by 'ascending chairs,'" &c.

But the local officers continually issue Edicts, saying that they view natives and foreigners with the same benevolence. Now from the foreign Factories to the merchants' Hongs is a distance of one, two, or three le; if the weather be very hot, or if it rain, or if the individual be wearied and faint, to order the foreigner to walk on foot while the native commonalty sit in chairs whenever they please: how is this viewing natives and foreigners with the same benevolence!

But further, this Edict says, "Foreigners must not overstep their rank," &c. But we know not how the great Mandarines look upon the persons appointed by the English to transact the commerce, of what rank they are. It is, therefore, incumbent on us to tell that our Supracargoes and Writers are all the sons and younger brothers of country gentlemen, of civil and military officers, &c. A certain custom-house domestic gave verbal information against a person he called Yashu (Astell); that Astell is the son of one who has often been at the head of the Company's Court, and who has many years been a Member of the Great Council of the British nation. How talk of his overstepping his rank by sitting in a chair.

The native salt merchants, Hong Merchants, custom-house waiters and interpreters, are all seen in chairs when they please. How can it be said that foreigners must walk on foot! Is this viewing natives and foreigners with the same benevolence!

There is also a very rude Edict, using the expression, "foreign women." Now, according to the laws of England, every man can marry but one wife. The custom of concubinage does not exist, therefore the persons the Edict calls foreign women are the wives of foreign merchants. The Company's servants in management of commercial affairs are required to be in Canton six or more months every year; now how does it accord with reason and the feelings of human nature, to declare that the wife shall not accompany her husband, and quietly reside in the Factory with him! Is this doing to others as we would be done† to? The native officers are allowed to have their families in the public offices. Why should the foreign merchant not be allowed to have temporarily his family in his Factory?

To sum up the whole, if the great officers wish to rule foreigners with justice and benevolence, affairs may go on with tranquillity; but if they wish to insult, tyrannize over, and govern foreign merchants vexatiously, we really do not know where the business will end. The most patient natures may be driven to extremes. What necessity in the midst of a vacuum, and on level ground, to create a commotion and provoke a revolution.

We write on special purpose, and with great respect lay this before your Excellency, &c.

Taoukwang, 10th year, 9th moon.

The preceding address is the composition of Dr. Morrison, and the Honourable Court cannot fail to perceive that it is written with a most anxious desire to conciliate

* The proclamation was issued by the Governor and Hoppo jointly.
† Chinese phrase.

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ciliate the Chinese authorities, at the same time, under a full sense of the indignities which have lately been offered to us; it is, in fact, an appeal to the good feelings of the high authorities to whom it is addressed, and we sincerely hope that it may produce the desired result.

EXTRACT China Consultations, 20th October 1830.

Howqua then proceeded to communicate the Viceroy's orders respecting the lady now in Canton in the following terms:

"As to women coming to Canton, the old law forbids it. It never can be permitted. The Chief is desired to send away the lady forthwith. If she cannot move immediately, the merchants are to ascertain in how many days she will go. If the Chief says he will not remove the foreign lady in two or three days, if she still be here soldiers will be sent to the Factory to seize and drive her out. The Chief is to tell the merchants what day she goes."

Howqua next produced two sealed letters addressed by us to the Foo Yuen and Iseang Keun, which had yesterday been presented at the city gates.

The one to the Foo Yuen was given back to the Kwang Chow Foo, to be returned to the merchants, and by them delivered to the Committee. Howqua explained that the Foo Yuen stated he could not receive any document concerning foreign affairs unless through the Viceroy. These affairs are in the Viceroy's department. His Excellency will receive the chop and answer it. The Foo Yuen further sent the following message through Howqua:

"For more than 100 years the English have traded quietly to the port of Canton. The Emperor has always taken care of the English; the Viceroy also has always been desirous to be friendly towards the English. Whatever the Viceroy ordains regarding foreigners is of equal force with the Emperor's law. The Viceroy cannot disregard the fixed laws. If you foreigners disobey the Viceroy's orders you disobey the Emperor's laws. If you come here you must respect the laws."

The Iseang Keun returned the letter, with a short message, merely stating that it was not his affair.

Howqua having further stated that the Anchorage is ordered by the Viceroy to order merchants to bring the Committee's answer respecting the three Parsees and the lady to-day, the merchants were requested to retire into another room while the Committee deliberated on what reply to be returned to their message.

Passing over the first part of Howqua's communication from the Viceroy respecting the three Parsees, with the mere remark that it is singular that a demand so apparently reasonable should not have been made until it was well known that it could not possibly be complied with, the men having left the country, we proceed to take into our serious consideration the latter part, which is of a much more important nature, namely, where the Viceroy arrogates to himself the power to send armed soldiers into our Factory, and there seize on the person of a British subject.

The admission of such a power would render us liable at every hour and on every occasion to the intrusion of an armed force, it would not only violate the security of the valuable property entrusted to our charge and subject our persons to insult, but it would be a virtual abandonment of the only protecting privilege we possess in China, and one which has ever been considered of the most vital importance. We therefore felt that any measure resembling concession on such a point would be highly injurious to the interests and honour of the British nation, of which we are in this country the representatives. Indeed the mode which the Viceroy has adopted of communicating to us on a subject so important by a verbal message, instead of writing, appears to indicate that he is himself conscious that he is overstepping his authority, and is desirous to try the effect of intimidation before he commits himself in a more formal manner. If this threat were obeyed, or indeed received in silence, in the course of a few days on any other occasion, we might expect to see it put into execution; while on the other hand, if spirited

and decisive measures are adopted to resist the mode in which it was conveyed, gives the Viceroy an opportunity of retracting.

We therefore came to the determination, with reference to the abstract question of personal security, to resist this menace of violating the precincts of our Factory, hitherto held sacred, to the utmost extremity, and immediately proceeded to take the necessary measures for repelling the attempt, if made.

Note.—The measures referred to respecting an armed force for the protection of the Factory are detailed in another Return to the Honourable House.

EXTRACT China Consultations, 21st October 1830.

Consultation in full Committee.

THE Merchants having requested an interview with the Committee, we assembled to meet them, when Howqua proceeded to state, that he and Mowqua had had an interview with the Viceroy, in which he entirely disclaimed any intention to act on his threat conveyed yesterday, and that he considered the circumstance of ladies residing in Canton as a thing by no means of sufficient importance to employ force to drive them away.

The Merchants then endeavoured to persuade us, that it was merely an ebullition of angry feeling on the part of the Viceroy, and offered their own security, as a body, that no act of violence should ever be used to molest any person residing in our Factories.

We informed them that, in an affair of so much importance, we did not consider any security they could offer as at all satisfactory, and that the guard would not be removed from our Factory until we received some document from the Viceroy, which would warrant us to consider our persons and property secure from the intrusion of an armed force, while within the precincts of our own Factory.

EXTRACT China Consultations, 23d October 1830.

WE have received, through the Merchants, the following Edicts from the Viceroy and Hoppo, in reply to our remonstrance of the 19th instant.

Governor Le, in answer to the Committee's remonstrance of the 18th instant, dated Oct. 21st, received 23d, 1830.

The Private Agents' remonstrance is joined with the Committee's in reply.

Le, Member of the Military Board, Governor of Canton, &c. to the Hong Merchants, requiring them to inform themselves fully of the contents.

It is now authenticated, that the English nation's Chief, Baynes, and others, presented a Statement, saying:—[Here follows a copy of the letter of the 18th.]

Further, it is authenticated, that the English private merchants, Innes and others, presented a Statement to the same effect. They both have come before me, the Governor. Concerning these authenticated topics, on examination it is found, that foreigners (E jin) bringing with them foreign women (fanfoo) to Canton province, they (the women) were merely allowed to remain on board ship. Afterwards it was granted that they should land at Macao. This was an extraordinary manifestation of the graciousness of our sage and benevolent dynasty. It cannot by any means be allowed to bring them (foreign women) to Canton. All the various nations of foreigners have for a long period obediently submitted to this.

As in the 16th year of Keën Lung (A. D. 1751–2), the Dutch Foreign Merchant, Laon-leën, in a boat, brought to Canton a foreign woman, and resided in the Suy-fung Hong. At that time the foreign woman was in custody sent to Macao, and there was issued a severe interdict.

In the 34th year of Keën Lung (A. D. 1769), an English foreign merchant, Fee Shun, clandestinely brought a foreign slave woman to reside in E-Wo Factory. Then the said foreign slave woman was sent in custody to Macao, and the Hong Merchants, Linguists, Compradores and government messengers were severally chastised and degraded, as is on record. Afterwards, whenever foreign women were brought clandestinely to Canton, they were always sent back under custody

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to Macao. Of late, for ten or more years, the foreign merchants have all obediently submitted, and there has been no such thing as bringing foreign women or girls to Canton, by which it may be seen that the said foreigners were by no means ignorant of the law.

Now the said Chief Baynes, how can he intentionally oppose the prohibitions and orders, and bring with him a foreign woman to Canton city, to dwell with him in the foreign Factory! And after having given orders to him, he still again stupidly introduces the case of those in courts taking with them their Mandarin families, &c. A lying specious argument. Does he not know that the native Mandarins must be resident in their courts before they are allowed to have their families with them? If they be deputed on public business, whether for a larger or shorter time, they are not allowed to take their families with them. The law is fixed and manifest. Now the said nation's Chief has received the commands of his King to come to Canton provincial city to trade, which is not different from receiving an Imperial Commission to go on a certain errand. Then even if he does fallaciously compare his case with native Mandarins, he ought not (according to his own showing) to bring his family with him. Still if her (or rather she) remove early to Macao, he will avoid a very, a very severe scrutiny. As to sitting in sedan chairs, originally, it is a small business. But foreigners, being in the provincial city, have not heretofore been allowed to ascend chairs. In going out and in from their Factories to their boats, or from their boats to their Factories, if it rained, or if they were sick and found it impossible to walk, still it was only proper for them to lean on some support and proceed. They were not allowed to drag in topics and dun with petitions.

Again, heretofore, in consequence of various foreign nations coming to Canton province to trade, whose languages were unintelligible, and they incapable of understanding the proprieties, laws, prohibitions and orders of the Celestial Empire, it was difficult (or impossible) for them to avoid pride and profligacy. Further, being apprehensive that the Security Merchants, &c. might be unjust in their dealings; or that traitorous natives might seduce to a violation of the laws, &c. therefore, even since the reign of Keën Lung, every year when the foreign ships in succession came into the port, proclamations containing severe interdicts were published once, really with the intention of looking down and compassionating the foreigners, to prevent their being entangled in the net of the law. This was the design. But the said foreigners in their petition, turn it into a disgraceful insult to them, which really shows their ignorance of the substantialities of the business.

To sum up all: The interdicts and orders are of old standing, and have not by any means been commenced to day. The said foreigners have only, as they ought, to conform obediently to the old regulations. Then, no doubt, there will be mutual tranquillity without disturbance. If in respect to former interdicts, there be an intentional opposition and disturbance created, it is all brought upon themselves by the said foreigners. It is by no means the case, that the Celestial Empire has not bestowed a gracious compassion. Try and ask: Have these said foreigners passed over an immense ocean, several times ten thousand le (miles), for the purposes of commerce, or to create disturbance? With an impartial mind silently consider, and you will be vehemently aroused (or awakened to a sense of your condition).

Uniting the above circumstances, an order is hereby issued to the Hong Merchants to enjoin forthwith perspicuously these orders on the said foreigners for their obedience, that they may take the foreign woman now living in the Factory, and immediately order her to be returned to Macao.

Moreover, order that hereafter, whether moving or at rest, there must be in all cases an implicit obedience to the laws and regulations of the Celestial Empire. The foreign women coming in ships are only allowed to reside temporarily at Macao. It is not allowed that they should be brought to Canton. Further, it cannot be that in the provincial city (foreigners) may ascend and sit in Chinese shoulder-carriages. If there be presumptuous intentional disobedience, all the offenders will be involved in a severe scrutiny. Hasten, hasten! These are the orders.

Taou Kwang, 10th year, 9th month, 5th day.

Hoppo Chung in reply to the Committee's remonstrance of the 18th instant, and the remonstrance of private British merchants of the same date. Issued October 22d; received 23d, 1830.

Residence of Females; and Sedan Chairs.

CHUNG, Imperial Commissioner of Duties at the port of Canton, &c. &c. to the Hong Merchants, requiring them to make themselves fully acquainted with the contents thereof.

It is authenticated, that the English nation's Chief, Baynes and others, have presented a foreign petition written in the Chinese character, saying—[Here follows a copy of the document of the 18th.]

And it is authenticated that the said nation's Private Merchants, Innes and others, presented a foreign petition with a Chinese translation, saying—[Here follows a copy.]

In consequence of these, examination being made, it is found that the taking off the interdict against ingress from the Southern Sea, and permitting foreigners to a commercial intercourse, occurred at the commencement of the Dynasty, from which time to the present is a hundred and some scores of years, during which period, for the foreigners of various nations who came to reside at Canton, there has been no affair which has not had old regulations, and there has been no man who did not obey the fixed laws; for the language and the dress of natives and foreigners are entirely different; and the Celestial Empire's usages are all honourable and strict. How is it possible to suffer the want of a marked difference being made between those inside and those outside?

Since the said foreigners come to trade, it is only incumbent on them to obey implicitly the orders of Government. If they dislike the restrictions as difficult to be endured, it is perfectly competent to them not to take the trouble to come so great a distance.

All the great officers of government in Canton look up and realize (his Majesty's) desire to treat foreigners tenderly, and they continually stoop to manifest kindness to those who come; but in matters which regard prohibitions, how can they in the least indulge in remissness.

Now, according to what the said Chief Baynes, and others have stated, they say, that on the 4th of the 8th moon a Proclamation was put up, containing language intended to degrade and insult the said foreigners.

Heretofore it has been the rule, concerning foreign ships entering the port, for my office to examine the old records, and uniting with the Governor, issue proclamations to be pasted up against the foreign Factories. From the 57th year (A. D. 1792) of Keen Lung till now, it has been in successive years conformed to. The practice was by no means commenced this year. Heretofore the said nation's trading Foreign Merchants never heard that it was designed to treat with insult and disgrace them. The said Chief has resided in Canton many years, and has been constantly going out and into the foreign Factories? How did he remain ignorant of the Proclamations which were put up according to usage, and in past years never observe the disgrace and insult, but only this year open out his irregular crazy proceeding? There must be some native Chinese traitor in the concern, deceiving and fanning the flame.

The language of the said Chief and others is fallacious, and let you alone, you exclude yourselves from the life which nature gives; as, for example, what is said in the petition about overstepping station or rank, and ascending sedan chairs.

The said Foreign Merchants have resided in Canton city for many years past. In past days, when going from the Factories to the boats, and from the boats to the Factories, did they ascend chairs, or did they walk on foot? Were there no times of hot weather or of rain then? Did it never happen that mens' bodies were wearied then? If formerly the said foreigners had ascended chairs, and at this time they were interdicted and stopped, then perhaps there would be a semblance of a little tyranny. But if originally they walked on foot, and now suddenly ascend shoulder* carriages, is it not overstepping their station?

The important ground of the provincial city is exposed to the view of every eye, and inside native people may not be menially employed by outside foreigners (or barbarians

* This seems to refer to the low sedan chair, called the Peking Chair.

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barbarians). The said Chief and others say that the person Astell, who sat in a chair, is the son of a member of their National Legislature. When that Foreign Merchant lives in his own country, he is no doubt the son of an honourable officer; but when he comes with merchant ships to Canton, and is not proceeding to Court with tribute, here no doubt he must merely be viewed as a trading Foreign Merchant. Since the said Chief and others understand what is reasonable and just, how is it they will not apply their thoughts, and awaken to a sense of propriety*.

As to what the petition says about foreign women residing in the Factory. Heretofore when foreign women came to Canton province they were originally allowed to reside temporarily at Macao. If they were brought to Canton city, it was for a long time past an offence against the statutes of the local government. In the 16th and 34th years of Keen Lung (A. D. 1751 and 1769) there were cases in the Courts of foreign women and slave (or servant) women being brought up clandestinely to Canton; all of whom were by the then Governors sent back in custody to Macao. There are papers which may be examined.

The said Chief and others, in attending to the commercial affairs, have their fixed residence at Macao. Canton is only their temporary residence. Every day (or ordinarily), by requesting a permit, they can go up and down, and perfectly attend to their families. What necessity is there for persons with different dress and different language (from the natives) to excite a commotion in the Factories, and, by a possibility of one in 10,000, create a bloody quarrel, and make a disturbance which would turn the subject into matter of infinite after-regret. Let the said Chief and others consider intensely their own persons and families, for the safety of whom it is very incumbent on them to take precautions, (and not bring them into places of danger). To sum up the whole, the said Chief and others having passed over the ocean so great a distance to come and trade, our Sacred Dynasty, which benevolently nurtures 10,000 states, doubtless will not in the least degree view them in different ways. But the Hwa and the Ee, the flowery natives and the barbarian foreigners, must be distinctly divided; between those inside and those outside there must be erected a great boundary†. Heretofore there has been no precedent for entering the Factories in shoulder-carriages, therefore walking on foot is no harsh treatment. Heretofore it has not been the rule for foreign women to reside in Canton; therefore sending them to Macao is really the way to give entire security.

The said Chief and others must, as is proper, consider the subject deeply over and over again, and be careful not to let other people befool them, vainly spending their angry breath in restive conduct, which may turn to self cutting off the road of commerce.

Uniting these things, an order is hereby issued to the Hong Merchants to enjoin these commands on the said Chief and others, for their obedience thereto.

Oppose not. A special Edict.

Taou Kwang, 10th year, 9th m., 6th d. (A. D. October 22d, 1830.)

A Proclamation, containing ideas much the same as the above, is pasted up at the Hong Merchants' Hall. It is issued in the united names of the Governor and Hoppo, and Iseang Keun. Date, October 23d.

EXTRACT China Consultations, 25th October 1830.

WE have received from the Merchants the following Edict from the Iseung Keun, in reply to the remonstrance addressed to him on the 19th instant.

King, the Iseung Keun, in reply to the remonstrances of the Committee, and of the private British Merchants, of the 18th instant; dated 23d October, received 25th October 1830.

King, the Iseung Keun (or Commandant) of Canton, hereby replies officially to the two petitions of the English Foreign Merchants, Baynes, Jardine and others.

On

* In the Governor's reply, the interdict was against ascending the shoulder-carriage, or sitting in a sedan chair; but if sick, and not able to walk, the foreigner might lean with his hands or arms upon the yu. What *yu* means in this connection it is not easy to say: it denotes "a mortar," held up by the hands, and may probably be the name of some mean bamboo hurdle. But he is not to ascend or sit, but hold on by this hurdle; which statement it is difficult to make sense of.

† A bank, or dike, to fend off.

Residence of Females; and Sedan Chairs.

On examination I find that all Foreign Merchants coming to Canton to trade ought to obey the usages and regulations of the Celestial Empire. This has long been a fixed rule; and all Foreign Merchants, with reverence and obedience, have also hitherto long yielded respectful submission. The great officers appointed on the borders have likewise, from time to time, explained clearly the prohibitions and commands, and issued proclamations and perspicuous edicts; and fearing that the various Foreign Merchants were not yet able to understand fully, they have also commanded the Hong Merchants clearly and minutely to enjoin their edicts, and to apply themselves to cause that all the foreigners should know the laws of the Celestial Empire; and that traitorous natives also should not dare, in the midst of these circumstances, to excite disturbances. This was to quiet the feelings of foreigners. These proclamations are really to show tenderness to foreigners, and to soothe and tranquillize them; but the said foreigners, ignorant how to be excited to gratitude, turn round, and because of the proclamations disallowing them to bring foreign women with them to Canton provincial city, and disallowing them to sit in sedan chairs, whining,—whining, present petitions. I, the Iseung Keung, have no connection whatever with the management of foreign affairs; but as it is authenticated that a petition has been presented to me on these various topics, I have examined, and find, that hitherto foreign women were only allowed to be in the Macao ships, and to reside temporarily at Macao*; they have never yet been permitted to be brought up by others to Canton provincial city.

As to the various Foreign Merchants trading, after ascending the shore from their ships, it is incumbent on them to keep themselves quiet, and wait in their Factories, staying till their merchandize is disposed of, and they have purchased and set in order new merchandize. Then it is incumbent on them immediately to get into their ships, return to Macao, and thence return to their country. Hitherto it has not been permitted to sit in sedan chairs. The fixed regulations being thus, how can (it be allowed) to dun with disputatious petitions.

Besides, the words contained in the petitions are very wild and fallacious; but, in consideration that they are foreigners, and that their language and notions of justice are different (from those of natives), I do not inflict severe chastisement; since it is authenticated that they have also petitioned the Governor, the Foo Yuen, and the Hoppo, they ought to wait till they have replied by proclamation for their commands to be obeyed.

Dated Taou Kwang, 10th year, 9th m. 7th d. (October 23d 1830.)

Several days having now elapsed since the threat of the Viceroy to send an armed force into our Factories was intimated to us, and although the Merchants have solemnly assured us that no such threat would ever be put into execution, yet no written document has been produced to satisfy our minds on so important a subject, we therefore determine to address the following letter to the Viceroy:

To his Excellency the Viceroy of Canton.

ON the 20th of this month the Hong Merchants came to us in a body, and stated that they had a message to deliver from your Excellency, which they were ordered to make known to us in the most formal manner, requesting that the words as they fell from their mouths might in their presence be committed to writing; this was done, and they have, in consequence, been placed upon our records. We were struck with the greatest surprize on their stating, that your Excellency had commanded them to inform us, that in two or three days an armed military force would be sent into our Factories to seize the person of a British subject. We had for a long succession of years felt satisfied, that while in our Factories, peaceably conducting our commercial transactions, our persons were secure; indeed, we have been confirmed in this feeling by the conduct of all former Viceroys. It is only under assurances of perfect security that trade can possibly be carried on; our lives and persons threatened in so formal and sudden a manner, what remained for

* There is a confusion in the original, arising probably from the people employed in the Iseung Keun's office being but ill acquainted with the affairs of foreigners.

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for us but instantly to endeavour to protect ourselves. Self preservation is the first principle. The feelings of distrust and alarm that this message of your Excellency has created in our minds, and in that of all the foreign community, can only be allayed by a strong assurance from your Excellency, that the persons of all British subjects in our Factories are secure, and these buildings inviolate from the intrusion of an armed force.

Canton, 25 October 1830. } Signed by the President.

EXTRACT China Consultations, dated the 28th October 1830.

THIS afternoon the Senior Merchants waited on the President, and delivered to him the following Edict from the Viceroy, at the same time renewing, in the strongest terms, their assurances, that no molestation would be ever offered to any persons resident in our Factories.

Reply of Governor Le to Committee's note of October 25th, dated 27th, received evening of 28th, 1830.

Le, Member of the Military Board, Governor of Canton, &c. to the Hong Merchants.

It is authenticated, that the English nation's Chief, Baynes, and others, have presented a statement, saying—[Here follows a copy of the Committee's note of the 25th instant.]

This being authenticated, coming before me the Governor, I have examined, and find that in consequence of an Indian Foreign Merchant in a foreign Factory, beating to death a Dutch captain, and it being right according to law that the affair should revert to the local officers to examine into it, report to their superiors, and manage, the said Chief and others delayed to deliver up the murderers. Further, there was an opposition to regulations, in bringing up a foreign woman and girl to reside in the Canton Factories.

The said Chief and others sent statements, with a coloured explanation, therefore I ordered the Hong Merchants to command, solemnly, the said Chief and others to obey implicitly, and adhere to old regulations. That they must not intentionally disobey and bring upon themselves the guilt of perverseness.

The language used about sending troops to drive out and expel (*), was under an apprehension, that the said Foreign Merchants would be pertinaciously stupid and not awaken, and from first to last would oppose, so as eventually to make it necessary to act thus. Therefore, was pointed out clearly the ultimate calamity, to cause them to know that which would arouse and awaken them. If indeed they themselves become penitent and reform (or alter their conduct) what necessity is there for them to be afraid of the majesty of the military?

The Celestial Empire benevolently nourishes, righteously rectifies and gloriously magnifies a vast forbearance. How is it possible, that for driblets of men in a petty, petty, barbarian † Factory, troops should be moved to exterminate!!! But the said Chief and others could not explain this intention (in the Hong Merchant's threat), they stupidly listened to the teaching of traitorous persons, and forthwith presumed, in opposition to inhibitions, to order guns and arms to be brought up, and arrange them at the door of their Factory. This is still more wild and erroneous; only try to think, if indeed the said foreigners had among them an illegality of a very important nature, I, the Governor, would instantly fly to report to the Emperor, and the Government troops would gather together like clouds, exterminate them, and leave a perfect vacuum. How could their guns and arms they have brought presume to oppose such a force.

As

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* 驅逐 Pae Ping, *Keu chuh.* The *Keu chuh* is a very harsh phrase, used in the first document; it means, driving cattle out of a field, and pigs out of a yard. The next word used in reference to the foreign woman was 押 yu, to send under custody of the police. The word used below is 止 foo, which denotes going in a respectful manner.

† It is impossible by the word *foreign* (le) to give the spirit of this sentence.

As to what the statement sent says, that they have prepared to defend themselves, is also very foolish; again they say, that heretofore, for a long time, they have had confidence in the management of business, &c. If for a long time they have had confidence, then they ought not, in what has long been disallowed, to disobey and act irregularly.

Residence of Females; and Sedan Chairs.

This year the said nation's foreigner, Wei Lin Luce Chay, and others, were shipwrecked on the coast of Fokein, I reported to the Emperor concerning them, gave them food to eat, and delivered them over to the said Chief to send them home. How can it be supposed that Foreign Merchants at Canton tranquilly trading will not be protected.

I, the Governor, in transacting public affairs have never once failed to keep faith with the people. After this explicit order, it is necessary immediately and hastily take the guns and arms, and send them back to the foreign ships. The woman and girl brought must be instantly sent to Macao, then what is gone by may be passed over without a deep injury.

Do not uselessly be in doubt and fear, and still go on with pride and fright, like a vicious horse; moreover, it is incumbent on you to lead and induce all the foreigners hereafter, for ever to obey the laws and regulations, that none may presume to disobey. If you remain still perversely obstinate and unwilling, assuredly a report will be presented to the Emperor, and an order received to cut off the commerce. It will also be impossible for me, the Governor, to stoop to protect. Let the said Chief be careful that he does not, by his individual mad opposition, involve all foreigners; the crime will really have one to revert to.

Uniting these things, I order the Hong Merchants to enjoin immediately my orders on the said Chief, to obey and hasten to take the guns and arms at the Company's Factory, and the same day remove them to Whampoa, and to make haste and send back to Macao, the woman and girl that he brought, to abide in his station tranquilly trading, and by no means stupidly listen to deceiving reports, irregularly exciting terror and fear, with wilful opposition to prohibitions and orders, for so doing he will hereafter repent without effect. Hasten! hasten! These are the orders.

Taou Kwang, 10th year, 9th m. 11th d. (27th October 1830.)

The following Addresses to the Viceroy and Hoppo having been approved of by the Board, will be forwarded to their respective addresses as soon as they are translated.

To the Viceroy of Canton.

We have received from the Hong Merchants your Excellency's letter on the subject of foreign women coming to Canton, and on foreigners not being permitted to ride in sedan chairs. In regard to the former we are told, that it is contrary to the laws of the Celestial Empire for foreigners to have their wives residing with them. But the public records of foreigners at Canton show that their wives did formerly reside with them: the custom has fallen into disuse for many years from foreigners not wishing to bring them to this city. In all civilized nations it is ordained that men should live with their families, and it is invariably found, that those who do are the most peaceable and least inclined to create disturbances. But if such be the law of the Celestial Empire, how comes it that several foreign women did reside in Canton for many months last season when the ships were here: no prohibition then existed, or it would have been promulgated; the thing was publicly known, no concealment was attempted, and no disturbance or confusion ensued; to suppose that such a thing could happen unknown to the police or to your Excellency, is what we never can believe. Was the law then suspended (if such a law does exist) only to be now put in force to irritate and insult with more effect; for what can irritate more, or make men more reckless of what acts they commit, then to endeavour to tear from them their wives and families. With respect to foreigners not being allowed to ride in sedan chairs in a provincial city, the law and custom are much at variance, for we ourselves have at different times for the last twenty years ridden in sedan chairs when going to merchants houses, and our predecessors have done the same time immemorial, even to the palace of the Viceroy. If a man be sick, and cannot walk, and yet be obliged to attend a merchant's warehouse, how is he to get there if boats cannot be used, unless in a chair. Your Excellency cannot surely mean that he is to be hoisted on

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a man's shoulders, or conveyed in a basket such as pigs are carried in; we know nothing else he could have recourse to, and we know well what a disturbance such a sight as this would cause, and we dread the consequences that might ensue. Your Excellency is said to see into the heart of his Imperial Majesty, but we will not be persuaded that a prohibition so devoid of all compassion or benevolence, so unworthy the character of a civilized nation, can emanate from so wise a Sovereign. Are we permitted to come here to trade, to disperse our money, and yet not be permitted to shelter ourselves from the heat of the sun or the inclemency of the weather; as well might we be told that the laws of China in a provincial city forbid us to wear a hat or use an umbrella. Let foreigners be treated, not like dogs, but human beings, and they will be grateful, and nothing need be feared from traitorous natives; but drive them to extremities by unnecessary insults and ridiculous prohibitions, and they will rebel. A thing trifling in itself becomes of importance if used as a mean to insult and inflame.

We beg, from the wisdom of your Excellency, that these absurd and highly irritating orders may be cancelled and pass into oblivion.

To his Excellency the Hoppo.

We have received from your Excellency an Edict embracing several topics, to which we now reply. In regard to the insulting and highly irritating proclamations pasted up against our Factory walls, as well as to the absurd prohibition now for the first time attempted to be enforced against foreigners riding in chairs, your Excellency remarks, "How is it that the said Chief Baynes and others have only now found out these insults, and have only now discovered that the weather is hot, and their bodies wearied?" We have to observe to your Excellency that we have long patiently borne many grievances and prohibitions imposed upon us by the local government, which we are satisfied never emanated from the heart of his Imperial Majesty. But forbearance is not appreciated, and has its limits. We hear a great deal in the Edicts of your Excellency and the other authorities of Canton, about the compassion, the tenderness and the benevolence shown to foreigners in this country; but where is the foreigner who can say that these virtues so much vaunted by the local authorities in their public proclamations have ever been extended to him in Canton; they are found on a paper in official documents, but no where else. In regard to riding in chairs, we have ourselves ridden in chairs at Canton for the last twenty years, and our predecessors have done the same for time immemorial, even to the palace of the Viceroy.

The Sovereigns of England and China are on terms of amity, and consequently commerce takes place between the two kingdoms, a commerce equally advantageous to both, certainly not more so to England than to China. Are we permitted then to come here to trade, to disperse our money, and not permitted to shelter ourselves from the heat of the sun, or the inclemencies of the weather in our necessary excursions from our Factories to the merchants' warehouses; the prohibition now for the first time attempted is ridiculous, and never will we believe it to emanate from the Emperor of China, who, when these things are represented to him formally, as perhaps they may be, will not, we are confident, sanction unnecessary insults and prohibitions attempted to be imposed on foreigners by the local government, for no other purpose that we can perceive but to drive things to extremities.

Your Excellency says, there must be traitorous natives concerned with us who fan the flame; but we must tell your Excellency we want not the aid of traitorous natives to make us know what is due to ourselves when attempted to be trampled upon.

Let foreigners be treated, not like dogs, but human beings, and they will be grateful, and no fear need be entertained of traitorous natives; but drive them to extremities by unnecessary insults, and absurd prohibitions, and they will rebel.

In regard to foreign women coming to Canton, the public records of foreigners show, that foreign women did formerly reside with their husbands in Canton; the custom has fallen into disuse from foreigners not bringing their wives with them. The law of nature ordains that a man should live with his wife and children, and the attempt to make a law subversive of this is impossible. A man with his family is more disposed to be peaceable than others without these ties, and it is the custom for our wives to remain at home and employ themselves with their children

dren, and not to make disturbances. But if such a law does exist, forbidding foreign women to come to Canton, how is it that last season, when the ships were here, several foreign women resided in Canton; no notice was taken of it, no concealment was attempted, it was publicly known. Are we to suppose that the police and authorities were ignorant of this fact? The thing is impossible. Does a law then exist which can be suspended or put in force as may suit the purposes of the local government? We know and have seen enough to be convinced, that many things are done at Canton by the local authorities which, if known to his Imperial Majesty, would draw down his vengeance upon them for risking the harmony which at present subsists between two great kingdoms, by driving foreigners to extremities by oppression, when a contrary treatment would make them peaceable and contented.

EXTRACT China Consultations, dated 29th October 1830.

To His Excellency the Viceroy of Canton.

WE have received a letter from your Excellency, intended to convey the assurances of our personal security within our Factories, and that they shall be free from all intrusions on the part of the Government, we trust that your Excellency's future conduct will prove the sincerity of your assurances of protection, and will prevent the necessity of resorting to measures to protect ourselves.

EXTRACT China Consultations, dated the 1st November 1830.

WE have this day received the following Edict from the Viceroy in reply to our short address, recorded on the 29th.

Le, Member of the Military Board, Governor of Canton, &c. to the Hong Merchants.

It is authenticated that the English Chief, Baynes, and others have presented a statement, saying,—[Here follows a copy of the Note of October the 29th.]

This coming before me, the Governor, I decide according to it, that since the said Chief and others have become penitent, and are awakened to solicit protection, I, the Governor, assuredly will not admit the principle of moving the military to surround and expell them.

According to the contents of the petition, I write these circumstances, and forthwith order the Hong Merchants immediately to enjoin these commands on the said Chief and others for their obedience thereto. Hereafter they must implicitly obey the laws and regulations of the Celestial Empire.

They must not in the least disobey, but set an example and induce all foreigners, every one of them to keep in their proper stations, and then they will not lose the road of commerce for remote men (*i. e.* not cause the whole foreign trade to be interdicted.)

Moreover let these orders be enjoined on the foreigners of all nations, that they may as a body yield obedience thereto. Oppose not. These are the commands.

Taoukwang, 10th year, 9th moon, 16th day.

EXTRACT China Consultations, dated 2d November 1830.

WE have this day received the following edict from the Viceroy:

From Governor Le, ordering four small guns to be sent away from the Company's Factory, dated November 1st, 1830.

Le, Member of the Military Board and Governor of Canton and Kwang-se, hereby issues an order to the Hong Merchants, with which they are required to make themselves fully acquainted.

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It appears that the English Foreign Merchants had brought and laid up guns in the Company s foreign Factory. Yesterday it was authenticated that the Nan-Hae-Heen and the said Merchants reported that the said Foreigners, on the 15th day of the present moon (October 31st) took two large brass guns and muskets, and other military weapons, and removed them back to Whampoa.

But on examination it was authenticated, on a former day, by the Report of the Military Station, that they altogether brought up two large guns and four small brass guns. Now there have only been taken away two large guns; there are still four small brass guns, concerning which no report of their having been removed has yet been authenticated. These are military weapons, and without regard to whether they are great or small, they all ought not to be kept in the Factory.

Since the said Chief himself says that he has confidence in Government, it is incumbent on him immediately to take the four small brass guns, and transport them altogether back to Whampoa.

Uniting these circumstances, I forthwith issue this order. When the order reaches the said Merchants, let them immediately enjoin it on the said Chief and others, that in obedience thereto they may quickly take the four small brass guns, and on the same day remove them back to Whampoa on board the foreign ships, and let them (the Merchants) again present a prepared report of the circumstance of removing them. It is not allowed to delay and gloss over. Hasten! hasten! these are the orders.

Taou Kwang, 10th year, 9th moon, 16th day.

The guns alluded to in the foregoing edict were three small brass guns, belonging to the cutter, and were retained in Canton, in order to be replaced on board her on her return to Macao. Feeling anxious, however, that there should be no apparent want of confidence or good faith on our part, we assured the Merchants that they should instantly be sent away, and that they should be informed of the circumstance as soon as they were gone.

EXTRACT China Consultations, dated 13th November 1830.

THE Hoppo Chung, in reply to the Committee's letter, October 28th, 1830; received November 13th, dated the 9th.

Chung, Hoppo, &c. to the Hong Merchants.

It is authenticated that the English Nation's Chief, Baynes, and others, have presented a statement, as follows :—[Here follows a copy.]

This coming before me, the Hoppo, I have examined, and find that the said Chief and others before presented a petition, in reply to which I explicitly commanded the Hong Merchants to order the said Chief and others to adhere implicitly to the old regulations, that they must not intentionally oppose prohibitions.

Now the said Chief and others have again sent in a whining, dunning, disputatious representation. The contents of the petition are not originally worth any further notice or persuasion, but indulgently considering that the said Foreign Merchants have come 10,000 miles to trade, and it involves their very means of existence, I would exercise the liberality of our holy and wise Dynasty, which is as expansive as Heaven itself, and for the sake of the said Chief and others stoop to point out their stupidity.

In their petition they say that the insulting proclamation suspended against the Company's Hong, has been reluctantly borne with for many years by Foreign Merchants, &c. Know they not that the Celestial Empire benevolently cherishes and justly corrects. I was only apprehensive that the said Barbarian Merchants would throw themselves into the net of the law, and therefore previously promulgated instructions, and stooped to show the way of preserving all entire. I by no means harboured the least intention of harsh treatment.

Besides, the proclamation stuck up against the Company's Hong has been there annually for more than 30 years. It did not commence to-day. As they say the language of the proclamation was rather ignominious, why did not the former Barbarian Merchants early indulge their anger, and with hearts, dead to the subject, cease to come again to knock head at the service for an open market! Why did they

they cross an immense ocean, through numerous dangers, and every year come. It may be seen that the said nation's (*) native spirit depends solely on trade for the necessaries requisite to support life. Woollens, camlets, clocks and watches are things which China does not find necessary, but tea and silk are articles which the said nation cannot possibly do without. It is by no means the case that the former Foreign Merchants forced themselves to bear patiently, but the fact is, they clung to the means of getting a livelihood (or supporting existence).

Residence of Females; and Sedan Chairs.

Now the said Chief and others disobey, and offend against the orders of Government, and on every subject croakingly boast.

The Governor, and I, the Hoppo, have already met, and according to the facts reported for the hearing of the great Emperor, although he cherishes tender thoughts intensely, how can he extend indulgence to violators of the law? The state of things must provoke his holy anger to inflict severe chastisement, and possibly † to interdict the commerce, not allowing it to come from the south.

† 1 to 10 thousand.

Although I wish to keep things entire, I have no opportunity afforded to confer compassionate kindness. This is caused by the said Chief and others themselves cutting off the means of existence, and involving all the Foreign (or Barbarian) Merchants throughout the whole of their country. The said Chief and others must, as is incumbent, over and over deeply meditate, and become aroused and awakened to repent of the past, and guard against the future. Do not scheme for selfish convenience, and obstinately adhere to your former talk. Thus, with quiet mind, keeping in your station, you may enjoy the favour of benevolent rule. Let the said Chief and others look up, and realize these thoughts. Uniting these things, an order is hereby issued to the Hong Merchants to act in obedience to the tenor of this, and to take the circumstances and principles contained in the above commands, and addressing themselves to the Chief, clearly and distinctly proclaim them to him. It is absolutely necessary that backwards and forwards and round about the matter be explained, and be caused to report intensely! Intensely! A special Edict.

Taou Kwang, 10th year, 9th moon, 24th day (Nov. 9th, 1830.)

EXTRACT China Secret Consultations, dated 30th November 1830.

THE following document has this day come into our possession, and although the mode in which it was obtained renders it impossible to place implicit confidence in its authenticity, still, as far as can be gathered from internal evidence, it leads us to believe it to be genuine. If so, it is a good specimen of the manner in which reports are made to the Imperial Court from distant provinces of the empire, and tends to show how plausible a statement may be drawn up on any subject, where all regard for truth is thrown aside.

Memorial from Iseang Keun, Governor, Foo Yuen and Hoppo to the Emperor, relative to Foreign Affairs, written early in November 1830, and Copy received from a private hand; the Copy received is not dated.

King, the Iseang Keun, Commandant of Canton, Le, Governor of Canton and Kwongse provinces, Loo, Foo Yuen of Canton province, and Chung, Hoppo of Canton, kneel and report to his Majesty for his information.

On examination it appears, that all the foreigners of various nations, who, crossing the sea, come to Canton to exchange goods, reside during the spring and summer of every year at Macao. For the autumn and winter the import and export goods being all at Canton, where the Hong Merchants exchange them, they then remove and reside at Canton, in the foreign Factories; foreign women brought with them were formerly permitted only to reside on board the foreign ships; in the 16th year of Keen Lung (A. D. 1751), they were first permitted to reside at Macao; but as yet no permission had been granted for them to be brought to Canton. In the 34th year of Keen Lung (A. D. 1769), Feishin, an Englishman, brought up a foreign woman to reside at Canton; the foreign woman was taken in custody back to Macao; and a strict prohibitory proclamation was issued. There are still records hereof that can be examined.

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* 土俗 Native spirit; usage, or habit.

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After the 34th year of Keen Lung there have been reports of foreign women being clandestinely brought to Canton, or residing there in secret for several days; but it has been without any person being aware thereof; and they have afterwards been taken back to Macao; when this has been the case there are no records that can be examined.

It appears on inquiry, that in the spring of the present year, foreign women came to Canton and resided here secretly; but just when orders were being issued to the Hong Merchants to drive them away, they returned to Macao. Now the English Chief, Baynes, has again brought a foreign woman to Canton, to reside in the Company's Foreign Factory; and, moreover, the said Foreign Merchants, coming on shore from their ships, have entered their Factories sitting in sedan chairs. Your Minister Le, issued orders to the Hong Merchants immediately to drive out the foreign woman, and bid her return to Macao; and not hereafter to permit Foreign Merchants, when entering their Factories, to get into sedan chairs or sit in shoulder-carriages. It is authenticated that the said Chief and others immediately thereon, came to the four offices of us, your Ministers, and at each presented a petition, praying for foreign women to reside in their Factories, and for permission to be granted to use sedan chairs; the language of the petitioners was not clear and perspicuous, and the phraseology was far from humble. We, your Ministers, have all, with strictness, rejected their petitions, and ordered them still to obey old regulations, and not in the least oppose them.

The said Chief and others having heard it falsely reported without, that soldiers were to be appointed to surround and expel the Foreign Merchant and foreign woman, became fearful and suspicious in their minds, and sent a general letter to all the ships anchored at Whampoa, ordering above one hundred sailors, under cover of night, to take several guns, muskets, &c. conceal them in the hold of a small vessel, and clandestinely enter with them into the Foreign Factories in Canton provincial city. The military stations immediately got information of it and reported; and we, your Ministers, instantly gave secret orders to the officers of the military stations, on land and water, not to make the least noise or motion, but to keep watch with increased vigilance, and ordered the Foo and Heen Magistrates, and the Wei-Yuen, all to appoint trusty attendants in different places, to examine carefully and suppress disturbance, and not permit native traitorous Chinese to hook on with, instigate, and befool foreigners and create riot; that hereby the Merchants and populace might be prevented from becoming alarmed or suspicious. We at the same time ordered the Hong Merchants and Linguists to speak sternly to the said foreigners, demanding why they secretly brought guns, &c. to their Factories; and what were their intentions? It is authenticated that they declared, that it was really because they had heard that soldiers should be immediately appointed to take the foreign man and foreign woman, and drive them both out; that in the fear and excited feelings of the moment, they took the muskets and guns which had been brought in their ships, for the defence of their persons, and brought them up during the night, and that they really did not know that guns were things which were not permitted to be brought up. On examination, we, your Ministers, find, that the said Foreigners, in coming up to Canton and going down to Macao, have hitherto been permitted to carry two or three muskets with them to protect themselves against thieves; this is really not prohibited: but as to the guns on board the ships, for many years they have not been permitted to be brought to the Factories at Canton. We again strictly commanded the said foreigners speedily to take the guns and muskets and immediately carry them back to the ships, and to make the sailors return quickly to Whampoa. After the lapse of some days, the said foreigners took the muskets and carried them away, and the sailors scattered and returned, but the guns still remain planted within the gate of the Foreign Factory; and the Hong Merchants were requested to solicit for them, that a short time might be granted before the foreign woman was again ordered to Macao. We, your Ministers, considering that the said foreigner, Baynes, in the first place secretly brought a foreign woman to reside in this Factory, and in the next place clandestinely transported guns and weapons from the ships to guard against being surrounded and expelled, both which are acts of presumption and opposition to old regulations, mad, rebellious and irregular acts; have now again ordered the foreign woman to be immediately and speedily taken in custody back to Macao, and the guns that are still retained to be all carried back to the ships and kept there. If they really act in obedience to these orders, and do not oppose, we, your Ministers, will, looking up, take the tender intentions entertained by your sacred Majesty, and

still

still permit them to continue trading as usual; but if they dare to delay or oppose, we will then, according to your Majesty's edict of last year, drive them out and expel them with severity, entirely stop their trade, and inflict a heavy punishment on them; we decidedly will not presume to make the least accommodation with them, thereby leading to the increase of the unruly disposition of the obstinate foreigners.

We, your Ministers, consider that, though this time the offences of the foreigners in opposing prohibitions have not brought us to the necessity of employing soldiers, yet the said foreigners original disposition has heretofore been unyielding and unfathomable. If it be necessary to keep them in awe by a military force, then it will be incumbent on your Minister King to appoint officers and soldiers of the Eight Banners (that is Tartars), both on land and water, and unite them with the officers and soldiers whom your Minister Le will appoint, that they may conjointly manage the business.

Again, we, by express, present a prepared Memorial. Because this business has relation to foreigners, and involves the dignity of the empire, we dare not refrain from stating the facts. With reverence, we, in conjunction with your Minister King, the Too-tung of the right wing, unitedly present this secret Memorial, begging your Majesty's sacred glance at it. A respectful Memorial.

EXTRACT China Consultations, dated 8th December 1830.

THE Merchants this day waited on Mr. Davis, bringing with them two Edicts, one from the Viceroy, respecting the late Committee, and another from the Kwangchow Foo, concerning the residence of ladies in Canton. The one from the Viceroy was of so insulting and improper a character that Mr. Davis declined receiving it on his own authority, and told them they had better present it to the assembled Committee.

The following is a translation of the Kwangchow Foo's Edict:

Fum Hoo, the Kwangchow Foo, dated December 4th, received the 9th 1830.

Hoo, the Kwangchow Foo, issues this to give orders concerning a certain affair.

It appears that the foreigners have disobeyed prohibitions, and presumed to bring foreign women up to the provincial city. The Governor's orders have been repeatedly received to drive them away.

It has been officially reported to Government that the foreign women brought by the English Chief Baynes, and the American Foreign Merchant Low, have been returned to Macao; but it is found that the English Foreign Merchant Thornhill, and the Indian Foreign Merchant Whiteman, both brought foreign women and servant girls, and they are still residing in the Foreign Factories. As yet no official report of their return to Macao has been sent in.

Why do the Hong Merchants suffer them to procrastinate? It greatly indicates contemptuous trifling.

Severe and intense orders have now been received from the Governor, urging the business, and it is decidedly impossible to suffer it longer for a moment.

Beside issuing orders to the Nanhaeheen to act in obedience thereto, this order is issued to the Hong Merchants, requiring them as soon as they receive it to enjoin its contents authoritatively on the said Foreign Merchant Thornhill, requiring him this very day to take the foreign women and servant girl, and send them in custody back to Macao.

Let an official answer be returned for careful examination. If disobedience and delay be still persisted in, the Security Merchant, the Linguist and the Compradore shall all be brought up and involved in a manner not expedient for them. Hasten! hasten! These are the commands.

Taoukwang, 10th year, 10th moon, 20th day.

EXTRACT China Consultations, dated 11th December 1830.

THE Committee assembled to meet the Merchants. Previously to their arrival the President stated to the Committee that they must in some degree feel prepared

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for renewed attempts at annoyance on the part of the Government, in consequence of the late changes, and that the surest and most prudent mode would be to meet them with such a degree of temperate firmness at the very outset as would effectually check such a disposition. The other members of the Committee cordially coincided in these sentiments.

The younger Howqua and Mowqua having arrived, they delivered to the Committee the Viceroy's Edict respecting the late President, which was forthwith sent to be translated.

Mowqua then stated that they were directed by the Viceroy to communicate his commands that the Committee should instantly order the ladies now resident in Canton to return to Macao. This was refused, and they were told that by their own positive pledge and promise on the 29th of October, no further annoyance was to be given on the subject, and that the question was then set at rest.

They then endeavoured to urge the point, by representing the persecutions they would be subjected to in consequence. We informed them that we deeply regretted such should be the case; that could we in any mode help them we should be most willing; but that we could on no account recognize the principle that we were to be forced into compliance on that or any other point by an appeal to our feelings. We told them that such a compliance could not fail to be highly injurious to both parties, for that if the local authorities once entertained the notion that we could be induced to swerve from our resolutions by the imprisonment and persecution of those with whom we have intercourse, it would inevitably be resorted to on all occasions. We should here remark, that the younger Kinqua, who is the Hong Merchant, has been for some days past in prison at the Namhae's jail. The cause assigned is that he secured a ship consigned to Mr. Whiteman, but which has now left the port nearly three months. Mrs. Whiteman has been residing in Canton for the last fortnight, and this measure has been resorted to by the Government as the means of compelling her to return to Macao. The merchants then withdrew, and the Committee separated.

EXTRACT China Consultations, dated 12th December 1830.

THE following is a translation of the Edict yesterday received from the Merchants.

Document from the Hoppo Chung concerning Mr. Baynes, dated November 30, received December 11.

Chung, by imperial appointment, Hoppo of Canton, &c. to the Hong Merchants, Howqua and others.

I have received from the Governor a communication, on opening which the following appeared:

Last year the English nation's foreign ships delayed entering the port, in expectation of obtaining an alteration of the old commercial regulations, and repeatedly sent in dunning* petitions. Although the Chief Plowden joined his name with the others, I, the Governor, on making a minute and careful inquiry, have heard that the business all arose from Baynes, Millett, &c. wildly putting forth their lordly views†, and laying plans of perverse craftiness, so that the ships long remained anchored outside, much of the cargo became mouldy and rotten, and all the Merchants were greatly injured.

* Or insulting.

† Or decisions.

This year Baynes falsely filled the office of Chief, and again presumed to oppose the prohibitions of the Celestial Empire, brought women and girls to the provincial city to dwell in the Company's Factory; and at last, when his reasoning failed and his heart became frightened, he ordered the sailors in the ships to bring up during the night five brass guns, muskets, &c., and arranged them at the gate of the Foreign Factories for the purpose of defence. Such conduct as this was indeed the extreme of mad rebellion. It would have been right immediately to have inflicted extermination; but considering that this was the crime of one individual, Baynes, I could not bear to involve all the foreigners; therefore I, the Governor, stooped to exercise clemency and forgiveness, and not only forbore to inflict awful punishment, but also refrained from stopping the trade. I suppose this completeness of compassion for remote persons is what all the Foreign Merchants of the said nation's ships universally know, and have heard.

But

But Baynes audaciously exhibited every sort of contemptuous behaviour; death is not sufficient to cover his crime!

I, the Governor, have already united with the Iseang Keun, the Fooyen and the Hoppo, in a memorial to the Emperor on the subject. It is estimated, that during the first decade of the 11th moon (before the 24th December), the Imperial will may be received.

I have now received a document from his honour the Hoppo, saying, that a permit is requested by the Englishmen Marjoribanks, Davis, Robinson, &c., to come to the provincial city.

I suppose they were chosen to be Chief, Second and Third, and have come to change the Committee. Since the said Baynes goes out of the Chiefship, it is a question whether or not he should be ordered back to his own country. If hereafter we shall receive his Majesty's commands to take Baynes and punish his crimes, it will then be right that he be delivered over to be punished. He must not clandestinely steal away, in the hasty hope of getting off as if nothing had occurred.

Beside ordering the Hong Merchants, Howqua, &c., in obedience hereto, to go immediately, and perspicuously enjoin the tenor of the above commands on the new Chief, and order him on the same day to write back perspicuously, how Baynes is taken care of to be forthcoming, no excuses or procrastination can be allowed, such conduct will involve him in heavy guilt.

Moreover letters have been sent to the Poochingsse and Anchasise, to unite and hasten to order the Kwangchowfoo to take under his direction the Nanhaehein, and communicate orders to the Hong Merchants that they may, in obedience thereto, enjoin the commands of Government on the new Chief and others to write back, clearly stating in what place they have confined Baynes till the business be settled.

Furthermore, it is right to make this communication to the Hoppo, that he may examine the contents and act accordingly.

On this coming before me, the Hoppo, I forthwith issue an order to the Hong Merchants.

[Here he repeats the last clause of the Governor's document]. Tremble at this! A Special Edict!

Taowkwang, 10th year, 10th moon, 16th day.

EXTRACT China Consultations, dated 14th December 1830.

THE following reply to the Governor's Edict having been approved of by the Board, the Merchants will be requested to attend the Committee to-morrow morning to receive it.

To His Excellency the Governor of Canton.

We have received your Excellency's Proclamation, bearing date the 10th year, 10th moon, and 15th day.

We beg to acquaint you, that in compliance with instructions received from the authorities in England, to whom alone we look for all orders regulating our transactions in this country, we have undertaken the management of the affairs of the East India Company in China. It will at all times be to us a source of satisfaction if the amicable relations between the British nation and China can be preserved uninterrupted. It is therefore with much regret we have received your Excellency's Proclamation, asserting a right of interference with the servants of the Company in this country, which we beg firmly, but respectfully, to state we can never admit. In regard to the personal imputations directed against the late Chief of this Factory, we feel ourselves called upon altogether to disclaim them. It is stated, that the ships of the Company were by him prevented entering the port, "in expectation of obtaining an alteration of the old commercial regulations;" but according to your Excellency's admission, the condition of the Hong Merchants had at that period become "sickened and debased," and foreign trade with China was in a state which imperiously called for amelioration; we are glad to think that that amelioration has in some measure been accomplished.

Mr. Baynes did not, as your Excellency has been most improperly informed, "falsely fill the office of Chief;" but on Mr. Plowden's departure it became his

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duty to take upon himself that office, and to conduct, in concert with the other members of the Committee, the affairs of the East India Company.

In regard to the subject next alluded to in the Proclamation, to which we now offer a reply, namely, the resort of the wives of British subjects to Canton, we cannot but believe that your Excellency has, from the expressions which you have applied to it, been much misinformed. The wives and families of foreigners have at all times been admitted to reside at Macao, nor have the laws of China ever prohibited their doing so. By your Excellency's predecessor an English lady was ordered to be brought to Canton, who had unfortunately been wrecked in an English ship on the coast of Hainan, and was conveyed here with other persons in a Chinese trading vessel. It has frequently occurred that English ships have been the means of saving the lives of Chinese subjects, who have been found cast away on some of the numerous islands in the seas adjacent to this empire. The mind dwells with sincere pleasure on such reciprocal good offices, proofs alike of civilization and humanity.

In this country, where the relations existing between husband and wife, and parent and child, are held in such high and deserved estimation, we cannot believe that it could ever be your Excellency's wish to deny to foreign residents in Canton the possession of these advantages, on which, according to the maxims venerated in China, the moral condition and happiness of mankind so much depends. Such we feel assured could never be the intention of the benevolent mind of his Imperial Majesty, who so unremittingly inculcates the conjugal, parental and filial duties on his own subjects.

In reply to the statement that the late Chief of the Factory acted violently in ordering armed men to Canton, we have only to mention that this was done in consequence of a formal intimation, which was made by the Hong Merchants, that the Factory was about to be attacked. Mr. Baynes being thus assured that the lives and property of British subjects were endangered, deemed himself called upon to protect them.

We could have much wished that we were not under the necessity of offering any further observations on the Proclamation, to which we now reply, as we are still inclined to believe that your Excellency must be sufficiently conversant with the British character to be aware, that we are incapable of being at any time induced by threatening language to diverge from the straight forward line of public duty. While serving our employers to the best of our humble power, we are unacquainted with a feeling of personal apprehension; we are insensible to such an influence; we dare not trust ourselves with quoting the expressions which have been applied to the late Chief of this Factory. We are desirous to address your Excellency in the language of truth, but in deference to the eminent situation which you hold, we wish to do so with respect. We cannot consider as applicable to an English authority the terms which have been used; they could only have been suggested to your Excellency by the misinformation of others; they could not emanate from a mind such as we are given to understand your Excellency possesses, governed by enlarged views, and directed by the principles of justice.

December 14th 1830.

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, dated 23d December 1830.

WE have this day received the following Edict from the Governor, in reply to our address dated the 14th instant.

From Governor LE, dated December 23d, received on 24th, 1830.

LE, Cabinet Minister, member of the Military Board and Governor of the two Kwang provinces, hereby issues his commands to the Hong Merchants.

It is now authenticated that the English Chief, Marjoribanks, and others, have presented an official document, saying—[Here follows a copy of the Committee's letter of December 14th.]

This coming before me, the Governor, I have examined and find that the merchant ships of England have come to Canton to trade, upwards of a hundred years, and for so long a period there has been mutual tranquillity; in every instance there has been obedience to the laws and regulations of the Celestial Empire, none has dared to make the least opposition. Even with respect to the said nation's ships

bringing

bringing married or unmarried women, they have invariably sent them on shore at Macao, they have never brought them up to Canton city to dwell in the foreign Factories.

Residence of Females: and Sedan Chairs.

During the reign of Keen Lung, it happened by mistake that some were brought to Canton, but they were all sent back in custody to Macao. There are repeated cases on record which afford evidence of this; but the late Chief Baynes, during the autumn of the present year, suddenly presumed to bring women with him to the Company's Factory to reside. Afterwards Thornhill and Whiteman came forward, and imitated the bad example, thereby violating the interdicts of Government.

I, the Governor repeatedly issued orders on the subject, charging them intensely that it could not be allowed; but I neither added the punishment which could have awed them, nor suddenly stopped your* trade, because sincerely I could not bear, on account of the irregular, wild conduct of the individual Baynes, to involve all the ships; hence it was that I acted with so much liberal forbearance; I really desired, for the sake of the said country, to preserve her trade entire. I suppose that the said Chief and others, since their arrival in Canton, have heard all the detail.

Now that Baynes is gone, his offences may all be left to himself; originally they do not concern the present Chief and his colleagues; but you, the Committee, are persons sent by your own country to control the commercial affairs; you must, no doubt, be persons who clearly understand what is reasonable and just, and maturely acquainted with the regulations. It is your duty to lead all the Foreign Merchants, to keep every one of them in his proper place, and not transgress the usages. If any one brings women to Canton, it is incumbent on you to speak plainly the correct sentiment, to reprehend him, and order him to hasten and return them to Macao. Moreover, you should previously caution all the people resident at Macao, and tell them that they are not allowed to bring their families to Canton. There you will go in the right way, which is incumbent on those who reside at Canton and have the general control. As to what is said in the Petition, that husband and wife should not be separated, this refers to ordinary cases, when living at home. If they go abroad and become guests in a country, how can they be viewed according to the same rule? Besides, at Macao they may be sent to reside: where is the necessity of overstepping the mark and going to Canton?

Try to think, of all the various nations whose foreign merchants come to Canton, there are a great many who do not bring their wives and daughters. How do they separate?

That a sudden and wilful violation of interdicts which had been long obeyed was a wild, irregular act, I suppose the said Chief and his colleagues already know.

At this time it is especially incumbent strictly to order Thornhill to repent speedily and alter his behaviour, not persisting in his former stupidity. Thus the strength of the said Chief will be competent to draw him back for the time to come from his past errors, and the affair will be completed on both sides.

To sum up the whole, the said nation's ships and merchants passing over such immense oceans, come only for commerce, how can they be willing to indulge the idea of creating disturbance?

The Celestial Empire also decidedly will not treat harshly persons from remote parts. If, indeed, they implicitly adhere to old usages, and do not wilfully originate novel notions†, no doubt there will be mutual tranquillity. In order to effect this, I do not fear the toil of reiterating admonitions and cautions on the said Chief and his colleagues.

Uniting these things, this Order is forthwith issued to the Hong Merchants, requiring them to enjoin its contents clearly and plainly on the said Marjoribanks and the others, that they may obey accordingly. Oppose not. Hasten! hasten! These are the commands.

Taoukwang, 10th year, 11th moon, 9th day.

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* Here and below he quits speaking to the Merchants, and speaks directly to the Committee.

† The allusion is to a tree shooting forth new branches.

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EXTRACT China Consultations, dated 29th December 1830.

WE have received from a private source, the following Copy of the Imperial reply to the Memorial in our Secret Consultations, under date 30th November. The evident intention of it is to leave discretionary power to the officers of the local government to act according to circumstances:

Canton, December 29th, 1830.

Translation of a document received privately from the Court of Peking.

On the 14th of the 11th moon of the 10th year of the reign of Taoukwang (December 28th, 1830), a fire despatch (an express) was received from the Military Board, containing a letter from the great officers of army movements; saying, that King, the Teangkeun of Kwang Chow; the Cabinet Minister and Governor of Canton, Le; the Fooyuen Choo and the Hoppo Chung had memorialized; and on the 24th day of the 10th moon of the 10th year, the Supreme commands were respectfully received, stating;

It is authenticated that King and others have reported that the English Nation's Chief, Baynes, had conveyed foreign women to the provincial city, to dwell in the Company's foreign Factories; further, that the said Foreign Merchants had, in going on shore from their ships, sat in sedan chairs, and proceeded to their Factories, [&c. as before translated; Emperor's answer concerning the guns, &c.]

According to internal regulations, foreign women are not allowed to go to the provincial city to dwell, and Foreign Merchants are not allowed to sit in chairs, and enter their Factories. Their bringing musketry and cannon is only for defence against pirates at sea; it is by no means allowed to convey them clandestinely into the city.

Now that the said foreigners have presumed to disobey old regulations, King and the others must issue strict and explicit orders, and cause them to obey and keep the old regulations. Hereafter they must not in the least degree oppose, nor wilfully offend against the prohibitions. If still they dare to persist in opposition, then forthwith adopt measures to expel them, and exhibit primitive correction, there must not be the least approximation or giving in. It is necessary (for the four persons named above) to consult and manage safely. Whilst cherishing tenderness towards outside foreigners, still there must be no loss of the dignity of the arrangements of the Celestial Empire. To do this will be good management.

Take these commands and make them known to King, Le and Choo, that they may communicate the commands to Chung (the Hoppo) for his information. Respect this. In obedience to the Imperial will, we (the great officers, &c.) send this letter.

EXTRACT China Consultations, dated 4th January 1831.

WE have this day received from a private source, the following Copy of a Memorial to the Emperor, from the heads of the local government, concerning the proceedings of the last few months; it evinces an equal disregard for truth, as most documents of a similar description.

Memorial to the Emperor from the Tseong Keun King, the Governor Le, the Fooyuen Choo, and the Hoppo Chung, concerning the supercession of the Select Committee, dated 1st January 1831.

Your Ministers, King, Le, Choo and Chung, kneel and report. We before reported unitedly, that the English Chief Baynes, had brought up a foreign woman to the provincial city to dwell in the Foreign Factory; that the said Foreign Merchants, on coming on shore from their ships, entered the Factories seated in sedan chairs, and that having erroneously listened to false statements, of soldiers being sent to surround and expel them, they became suspicious and fearful, and clandestinely

clandestinely brought guns and muskets from on board their ships to the Foreign Fatories at the provincial city. On the 14th day of the 11th moon of the present year (28th December last), we received a letter from the great ministers, who direct the movements of the army, stating that the Imperial will had been respectfully received. [Here follows the clause of the answer which contains the Emperor's will.]

Residence of Females; and Sedan Chairs.

On examination, we find that after this former prepared memorial, the said foreigner, Baynes, getting a little knowledge of repentance and awe, on the next day, took the great and small brass guns and sent them severally back to the various ships. The foreign woman also returned to Macao. These things, at the several times of their occurrence, your Minister Le, in conjunction with your Ministers King and Chung, reported on attached slips of paper (or by postscript) as is on record.

We, your Ministers, on examining very minutely, find that the foreigners of the said nation are indeed all stupidly obstinate, but that the Chief, Baynes, is still more so, perverse and obstinate to an extreme; and that in many cases it has been Baynes who has madly thrust forward his views and wishes. Other persons have been chosen in the said country to be Chief, second and third Supracargoes, and they having come to Canton to change places with (the former ones), Baynes has immediately been dismissed.

We, your Ministers, have made inquiry as to the reason of this, and it is authenticated, that, in reply, the Hong Merchants state that they have heard, that because of Baynes having last year frequently presented petitions, madly hoping to change the old regulations of the trade, and having forcibly caused the various ships to delay entering the port, so that a large portion of the foreign goods were spoiled by mould and rust; the said country knew that it was Baynes and his colleagues who had involved themselves in this state of things, and therefore recalled him.

We find on examination, that the foreigners are covetous of profit, and very crafty and artful. It is not Baynes alone who is thus; so that although Baynes is now dismissed, it is difficult (or impossible) to ensure that in future those foreigners, who are put in his stead, will not again madly form crafty plans; we can only immediately thereon examine and issue strict orders for them to understand, that "hereafter it is absolutely necessary that the English Chief, and all the foreigners of the various nations, pay implicit obedience to the prohibitions of the Celestial Empire, and tranquilly continue the ordinary course of trade." If any should presume again to oppose, it will be our duty, in obedience to your Majesty's will, to form some plan for driving them out, and inflicting severe punishment and correction, without in the slightest degree approximating to, or making accommodation with them, in order thereby to make the dignity of the Empire revered, and to keep in awe the stupid obstinacy of the barbarians.

It is consistent with right reason that we should unitedly report again by an added slip of paper (a postscript), begging a sacred glance at it. A respectful memorial.

EXTRACT China Consultations, dated 13th January 1831.

WE have this day received the following document from the Merchants:

Order from Governor Le, communicated by the Kwongchowfoo to the Hong Merchants, dated January 12th, received 13th, 1831.

Hoo, the Kwongchowfoo, to the Senior Hong Merchants, for their full information. A document has been received from the Treasurer, who received it from the Governor, who says,

The Imperial commands have been respectfully received, saying, "Former regulations have disallowed foreign women residing at Canton; foreign (or barbarian) Merchants, are not allowed to enter their Factories sitting in sedan chairs, and their bringing muskets and cannon is only to defend themselves against pirates at sea; they must not, on any account, clandestinely transport them to

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Canton. These foreigners having presumed to oppose old regulations, you must issue strict, severe and explicit orders for them to obey, and keep the old regulations. Hereafter there must not be the least opposition or disobedience to prohibitions. If still they dare to procrastinate and resist, let them immediately be expelled by force, and a manifestation of chastisement exhibited. Respect this."

Having respectfully transcribed this, it is hereby sent to the Treasurer, to pass it to the Kwongchowfoo, who must transmit it for implicit obedience. Examine into it, and act accordingly.

(I, the Kwongchowfoo) having received the above, have written to the Nanhaeheen, commanding him to obey it, beside which I hereby issue an order to the Senior Merchants, that they may forthwith reverently obey, and order with strictness, severity and perspicuity, the said Chief and others, one and all of them, to obey and keep the old regulations. They must not in the least oppose or violate the prohibitory orders of Government. The foreign women who have been brought by Thornhill and Whiteman, and of whose return to Macao there is as yet no authentic report, must be urged and commanded to be removed to Macao this very day, and a report of the same presented to Government. If they still dare to procrastinate and resist, assuredly his Majesty's commands will be implicitly obeyed, and a rigorous infliction of expulsion and chastisement be manifested. The said Hong Merchants also will greatly offend, and find it inexpedient. Tremble at this! Heedfully attend to this. Oppose not. These are the commands.

Taoukwang, 10th year, 11th month, 29th day. (January 12th, 1831.)

EXTRACT LETTER from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 23d October 1831.

Par 9. WE regret to state that an unfavourable and malignant temper has lately been displayed by the Chinese Government, in the publication of several insulting and opprobrious Edicts, promulgated with the evident intention of degrading the character of foreigners amongst the lower orders of the natives, and calculated in a high degree to aggravate the feelings of the former, and excite the disposition of the latter to offensive acts. Amongst these Proclamations, several have appeared prohibiting the residence of European females in Canton, and within the last two days a verbal message was delivered to us by Howqua, attended by the whole body of Hong Merchants, stating most distinctly, (and as an intimation emanating directly from the Viceroy, which he desired might be immediately committed to writing), that unless a lady now residing in the Factories, removed in two or three days, a party of soldiers would be deputed by the Viceroy to seize her person.

10. We consider it proper to state that the indignities which the Chinese Government has lately attempted to heap upon foreigners, has been so keenly felt by the residents in this city, that an address has been presented to us, signed by, we believe, almost every member of the British Commercial Community, requesting our co-operation and assistance in remonstrating against this shameful line of proceeding on the part of the constituted authorities.

11. The threat of seizure, levelled against a person resident in the precincts of our Factories, is so subversive of the security indispensable to the conduct of the trade, that we feel any measure resembling concession on such a point, would be highly injurious to the interests of the British nation, of which we are in this country the representatives; we therefore determined, with reference to the abstract question of personal security, to resist this menace of violating the precincts of our residence, hitherto held sacred, to the utmost extremity, and resolved to adopt the necessary precautions for repelling the attempt if made.

12. As regards the questions of the residence of European females in Canton, nothing can be more unreasonable than the objections now urged against it by the Chinese Government. In the past season, several ladies resided in the Factories without any attempt at molestation on the part of the Canton authorities, or even an observation being passed upon the subject. Mrs. Baynes, at whom the present insulting menace has been directed, accompanied her husband to Canton by the express

express invitation of Howqua, whose character is too cautious to commit himself inconsiderately. The prohibition therefore now issued against her residence in Canton, appeared to us as absurd and inconsistent as the terms in which it was conveyed, and the threat which accompanied it are galling to the feelings of every Englishman.

Residence of Females; and Sedan Chairs.

13. We would here bring under the consideration of your Honourable Court that the President of the Factory, in the discharge of his duty, must necessarily at times render himself extremely obnoxious to the Chinese Government. We allude to those occasions when cases involving life are under discussion with the Government; and we would beg most respectfully to add, that the conscientious and prompt discharge of responsible duty, involving exposure to the odium of this Government, is scarcely compatible with the feelings attendant upon separation from a wife and family placed under no protection, and liable, in a desperate emergency, to the acts of a government which has shown itself capable of conduct of the most atrocious nature. The preceding remarks may apply with equal propriety to every member of the Factory, who might find himself in similar circumstances to those in which the President is now placed, and are not intended to refer to the solitary instance which has now been taken up by the Viceroy.

14. But the threat held out by the Government on this occasion embraces in its bearings a much wider field than the solitary instance in which it has been exercised. It has probably been induced by the sudden departure of two persons from Canton, Mr. Fearon, the Hanoverian Consul, and the Parsee Merchant Merwanjee, the master of the three Parsees concerned in the affray which caused the death of Captain Mackenzie. Mr. Fearon is a resident in the Factory where the transaction took place, and is also connected in business with Merwanjee. Mr. Fearon's name was introduced into a report of the transaction made by a low police officer to the superior Magistrates, we believe, at the instigation of Mr. Bovet, to screen himself from implication, although perfectly innocent of the smallest participation in the occurrence. Mr. Fearon was so far intimidated by the inquiries of the Government into an affair, where his name had been reported as an accessary, whose delinquency was suspicious, that he judged it prudent to quit Canton; and the Parsee Merchant Merwanjee, under the impression that he might be held responsible by the Government for the acts of his dependents, adopted the same course.

15. The Chinese authorities have doubtless been encouraged in their demands for the delivery of the three Parsees by the two instances of successful intimidation above related; and were the slightest disposition of concession evinced by us at the present moment, it cannot be doubted that they would be emboldened to proceed to fresh acts of aggression, such as the search of our Factories for the offenders, insulting menaces, or even the positive seizure of the person of some British subject.

16. We therefore came to the determination, that firm and deliberate resistance to the line of conduct assumed by the Government afforded the only hope of avoiding a series of indignities and insult, as well as of establishing the security of person, so essential to the conduct of the trade. A guard of seamen was immediately ordered from the ships for the protection of the Factory, in case of any attack being attempted; and the Merchants were informed the same will not be withdrawn till the Government give ample assurance for the personal safety of every British subject resident in Canton.

17. We are happy to be able to add to this despatch the assurance that there appears no intention upon the part of the Government to disturb the commercial transactions of the season, which continue perfectly uninterrupted. The Hoppo has announced his intention of proceeding to Whampoa to-morrow for the purpose of measuring all the Honourable Company's ships. It is further satisfactory to us to inform your Honourable Court that the lading of four ships is already far advanced, and that of three more has been commenced.

18. We cannot here refrain from expressing our conviction that the very serious discussion of the preceding season has had a sensible effect upon the conduct of the Chinese authorities, with reference to the employment of the means of coercion, to which they formerly resorted with such readiness. We allude to the suspension of trade. No hint has been made in the demands urged by the Government for the delivery of the three Parsees concerned in the affray in which Captain Mackenzie lost his life, that this weapon of compulsion would be employed; we are happy also to perceive that the Government, though they have undoubtedly authorized the verbal communication of the insulting threat detailed in the 9th paragraph of this

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China Papers.

Alleged Breach of Chinese Laws.

this despatch, has not dared to commit the same to writing in the form of a public document; we trust, therefore, that the prompt and decisive measures which we have considered it necessary to adopt on this occasion, while they serve to convince the Chinese that attempts at intimidation will never succeed in inducing us to swerve from our position, will at the same time convince them of the inutility of protracting the discussion of the homicide, when no point can be gained; and we hope to communicate to your Honourable Court in our next despatch the amicable adjustment of the present subjects of difference.

EXTRACT LETTER from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 15th November 1830.

Par. 57. OUR letter under date the 23d October, will have informed your Honourable Court of the cause and progress of our discussions with this Government, and our proceedings consequent thereupon up to that period. The Hong Merchants having informed us that the Viceroy was unwilling to give more than a verbal assurance to a verbal threat, we addressed a letter to him, which will be found upon our Consultations under date the 25th October, stating the threat made use of, and the formal way in which it was conveyed, and requiring from him the strongest assurances that our Factories and our persons were secure.

58. On the 28th, an answer recorded under that date, was brought to the President by the Merchants, who stated that it would be found conciliatory, and to contain the assurance we required of personal protection; they added the strongest assurances, on their part, that no armed force should ever enter the Factories, and that no molestation would be given to English ladies residing in Canton, qualifying this latter assurance, by saying, that although edicts might from time to time be issued, which the forms of office rendered necessary, yet beyond that no molestation would be offered or notice taken; exemplifying their meaning by an allusion to the edicts annually promulgated against the opium ships, which were never intended to be put into execution. On the following morning the letter having been translated, the Committee assembled to take it into consideration. The first question was, whether it contained to the full extent the assurance we had required; the wording of it certainly does not amount to this, and we felt ourselves at liberty either to receive it, and construe it to our purpose in our reply, or to reject it altogether. There could be no doubt it was intended as a peace-offering, and the assurances of the Hong Merchants, not only on the question of the inviolability of our Factories, but as regarded the residence of English females in Canton, convinced us how great had been the impression created by the prompt and decisive measures we had adopted on the justifiable ground of self-defence. The slight allusion to the Parsee question sufficiently showed that that affair was at an end, and that our object to preserve the trade free from interruption had been obtained. The slightest concession on any of the points in dispute, would doubtless, judging from former experience, have been the sure means of involving us in long and harassing discussions, together with the other annoyances which have attended former cases of homicide in this country. After mature deliberation, and for the reasons detailed in our Consultations of the 29th October, to which we beg to refer, we determined to seize the advantages we had gained at the moment of concession, and put an end to these discussions.

59. We therefore formally summoned the Merchants, and informed them that relying on the promises of the Viceroy, and the strong assurances they had given on all the points in dispute, we should answer the Viceroy's letter with as little delay as possible, after which orders would be issued to remove the men and guns to Whampoa.

60. A letter was drawn up to the Viceroy, recorded under date the 29th, and on the 31st October the men and guns were embarked at the Company's stairs opposite the Factory, without the slightest accident having occurred from the time of their arrival to their return to Whampoa.

61. On the 1st November was received the Viceroy's reply, recorded under that date, in which he says, "he assuredly will not admit the principle of moving the military to surround and to expel;" and thus terminated these discussions, which at the commencement threatened to be of long continuance.

EXTRACT LETTER from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 15th December 1830.

Residence of Females; and Sedan Chairs.

Par. 9. IT is with some regret we acquaint your Honourable Court, that we have received a proclamation from the Governor and Hoppo, the language of which is most violent, as directed against Mr. Baynes and the Members of the late Committee. It claims also a right of interference with the servants of the Company in this country, which has in former years been attempted, and effectually resisted. It will become our duty to disclaim this right of interference, and to reply to it in a firm and decisive manner. We may here remark, that in our communications with this Government, it will ever be our study to avoid all intemperate expressions. The language of inflexible firmness and politeness may be united, and we shall always endeavour to assume the first, without allowing the second to sink into humility.

10. An impression, arising out of the late changes, has probably been made on the mind of the Chinese public, that we might be disposed to concede privileges which had been gained; and as it must be well known to your Honourable Court that concessions in this country often lead to further attempts at encroachment, we shall consider it necessary to make a stand upon the threshold.

11. We consider the proclamation alluded to, and which is recorded on our Public Consultations forwarded by the present despatch, to be a trial on the part of the Canton Government how far we are disposed to yield to its dictation.

12. We are further confirmed in our resolution to pursue the line of conduct above mentioned, by an intimation we have received privately from a native source, but which we have reason to believe to be authentic, that an Imperial Edict, in reply to the representations of the Canton Government on the subject of the proceedings in the past and present seasons, has been received within the last few days. Our informant states the purport of the Edict to be as follows:

"The said Governor and others are ordered to arrange with liberality, and manage kindly. Respect this."

13. If this be authentic, it evinces a strong disposition in the Imperial Government to preserve amicable relations with foreigners. We are told that the rebellion in Tartary, and the great anxiety for its suppression, has in some measure created this desire to maintain uninterrupted tranquillity in other parts of the empire. But at the same time, we cannot avoid remarking, that the proceedings of last year appear to have made a considerable impression; and it must be admitted, as repeatedly demonstrated in the history of our intercourse with this country, that a firm opposition to the encroachments of the Government generally produces a favourable inclination towards us, after the subjects in dispute are terminated.

EXTRACT LETTER from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 1st January 1831.

Par. 9. ONE of the Hong Merchants has this morning acknowledged, with a request that his name should not be connected with the acknowledgment, that the Governor had stated that the residence of English ladies in Canton was a "trifling matter, a very small business," as he expressed himself. The remonstrances, therefore, which we have received from the Government upon this subject, have, as we have always believed, originated in the suggestions of the Hong Merchants, who have unhappily ever been jealous of the concession of any privileges which add to the respectability of foreign residents. They proceed upon the principle, that the greater the depressed state of foreigners, the less likely is their own responsibility to be involved.

10. We feel desirous that the confidential communication from one of their own body should be made known to your Honourable Court, who will naturally be led to conclude, that much greater weight has been attached by the Canton Government to this question, than has been the case.

EXTRACT LETTER from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 11th February 1831.

Par. 6. SINCE our arrival at Macao, we have, in the interchange of courtesies with the local Chinese authorities, received from them expressions of their good will and favourable dispositions, which have been evinced on a minor occasion by the removal of the restriction against Chinese being employed as chair-bearers by English residents, which had become a source of much private inconvenience.

EXTRACT LETTER from the Court of Directors to the Select Committee at Canton, dated the 13th April 1831.

Par. 27. UPON the first point, viz. the resort to Canton of European females, we stated in our letter of April 1829, that "we could by no means sanction such a step." And we accordingly desire you will in future be governed by this decision, a departure from which led to the extreme measures of ordering up a party of seamen, and two carronades, for the purpose of being placed in the Factory, to repel any attempt which might be made by the native authorities to enforce the observance of their prohibitory Edict. Such a course of proceeding might have produced a recurrence of the serious difficulties and embarrassments which had arisen in the preceding season, and that, not for the purpose of maintaining any point essential to the preservation of the important public interests committed to their charge, but to relieve them from a temporary domestic sacrifice, a sacrifice necessarily entailed upon the members of our Factory, in the discharge of the duties imposed upon them by the stations to which they are appointed.

(B.)—PAPERS RELATING TO THE DEATH OF MR. MACKENZIE, AT CANTON.

EXTRACT China Consultations, dated 4th October 1830.

THE President this day arrived in Canton with his family, having left Macao the day previous in H. C. Cutter. On landing, the following letter was delivered to him by Mr. Lindsay. As the three Parsees alluded to were confined in Mr. Lindsay's rooms, the President gave immediate directions for their being sent to Whampoa; and they left Canton the same evening in the Astell's boat, with an order to the commanding officer of the H. C. S. Abercrombie Robinson, to keep them in safe custody until further orders.

To Wm. Baynes, Esq., President, &c. Select Committee.

Gentlemen,

An affray of a very serious nature having occurred in which Captain Mackenzie, commander of the Dutch ship Vrow Helena, has lost his life, I consider it my duty to lay the circumstances of the case, as far as they have come to my knowledge, before you.

A little before seven on the morning of the 1st October, Mr. Van Basel, acting Consul for the Netherlands, came to my house and requested me to accompany him to the house of Mr. Bovet, in which Captain Mackenzie was lying dangerously wounded, having been attacked the previous evening by a party of Parsees, servants of Merwanjee Hormajee, who resides in the adjoining Factory.

I forthwith accompanied him to Mr. Bovet's, where we found Captain Mackenzie in a dreadful state, his head being so disfigured by the blows he had received, that scarcely a feature was perceptible. He was still living when I entered the room, but perfectly senseless, and he expired within a few minutes.

The statement of Mr. Bovet and several other witnesses was, that the house had been attacked by a party of Parsees; and that on Captain Mackenzie's going to the door he was knocked down and dragged along the Hong, the Parsees striking him severe blows with iron crowbars.

Mr. Van Basel then addressed me in the following letter, requesting my assistance to apprehend the suspected parties, they being British subjects.

(Translation.)

To H. H. Lindsay, Esq., British Factory in China.

Sir,

In consequence of the assassination which was committed yesterday evening in our Hong by the domestics of Merwanjee, we request you to give us the assistance in your power to endeavour to apprehend the culprits, seeing that the Parsees are under the protection and domination of the English Company.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

(signed) *M. J. Senn Van Basel,*
Provisional Consul of H. M. the King of the Netherlands.

Canton, 1st October 1830.

Conceiving, from appearances, that a murder of a most atrocious nature had been committed, I felt no hesitation in giving all the aid in my power, and immediately went to Merwanjee's Factory in company with Captain Daniell, the senior Commander in Canton, and several officers and seamen.

Merwanjee himself readily came forward and pointed out three of his servants implicated in the affray, at the same time stating the case very differently from what Mr. Bovet did; namely, that his servants were the party attacked, and merely acted in self defence. Merwanjee willingly committed the three men into my custody, at the same time expressing the most anxious desire that the affair should be thoroughly examined into by any British authority. I accordingly took the three men and placed them in confinement at my own house.

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China Papers.

Death of Mr. Mackenzie.

During the course of the day an inquest was held at the Dutch Factory, which including adjournments, sat till five P. M. on the following day, when they came to a decision; and shortly after I received the following letter from Mr. Van Basel, enclosing the verdict of the jury.

To H. H. Lindsay, Esq., &c. &c.

Sir,

The jury assembled to investigate the causes which led to the death of Captain F. Mackenzie, of the Netherlands ship Vrow Helena, having returned their verdict, I have the honour to enclose an attested copy of the same, in order that as the Representative of the British Factory in Canton, you may take such measures as you may consider the occasion to demand.

The minutes of evidence are in course of being copied, and shall be furnished you when completed.

I have the honour to be, &c.

(signed) *M. J. Senn Van Basel,*
The Provisional Acting Netherlands Consul in China.

Canton, 2d October 1830.

(Copy.)

We, the undersigned, a Jury of Inquest summoned by M. J. Senn Van Basel, Esq. Provisional Netherlands Consul in China, for the purpose of inquiring into the causes which led to the death of the late Captain Mackenzie, of the Netherlands ship Vrow Helena, having met on the 1st day of October, and continued by adjournment to this day, after having examined the body, and heard all the evidence adduced, are of opinion, "That the death of Captain F. Mackenzie was caused by blows inflicted upon him by three Parsees, named Nowrojee, Framjee and Samsetjee, (servants of Merwanjee Hormajee), in an affray which took place in the Dutch Hong on the 30th ultimo."

Given under our hands at Canton, this 2d day of October, in the year of our Lord 1830.

(signed)

John Macvicar, Foreman.	*Thomas Fox.*
Samuel Russell.	*Lan^t Dent.*
Eugenio de Otadin.	*G. Parkyns.*
Charles N. Talbot.	*P. Ammidon*, jun.
T. H. Graham.	*J. R. Latimer.*
William Pigott.	*William T. Spawforth.*

(For a true Copy.)

The Principal Acting Netherlands Consul,
(signed) *M. J. Senn Van Basel.*

Conceiving that the terms of the verdict, which states that the death of Captain Mackenzie was caused by blows inflicted upon him "in an affray," entirely to exculpate the men accused from any act of wilful premeditation, and all the information I had collected on the subject tending to satisfy me that they were not the originators of the affray, I did not conceive it necessary to detain them any longer in custody; I therefore sent for Merwanjee, and having obtained from him a written promise, signed by himself and Framjee Pestonjee, one of the most respectable Parsee Merchants in Canton, that the three men should be produced before the Select Committee on your arrival at Canton, I liberated the men from their confinement.

On the morning of the 4th of October the Merchants called on me, and Howqua delivered to me two chops, one from the Viceroy, and the other from the Nam hoy, relative to this affair. The purport of these edicts was to direct the men who committed the deed to be kept in strict confinement, and await the Viceroy's decision. Thinking it probable, from this interference on the part of the Chinese Government, that they might endeavour to assume a right to take cognizance of the case, I considered it the best plan that the three men should again be taken into custody, and there remain until your arrival.

I therefore

I therefore sent to Merwanjee, and he instantly brought the three men with him, whom I placed in confinement, as before, in my house.

I then, at the request of Howqua, explained, to the best of my knowledge, the circumstances which led to the affray, which he took down in writing, and told me he should directly send it to the Viceroy. The following is the substance of the information I gave:

The following is the substance of a Chop sent in by the Merchants, October 4th, 1830:

Mr. Bovet ordered a private lock to be put on the back door of the Dutch Hong, which is a public door for all inmates of the said Hong. Merwanjee, wishing to go out, asked for the key, which was refused. Merwanjee sent a second time a European clerk, and was again refused. He then ordered three of his servants to break the lock. Mr. Bovet then came with a sword, and attacked them. The Parsees took the sword out of his hand. Mr. Bovet ran away, crying out for help. Captain Mackenzie, hearing the noise, came out to assist, and struck one of the Parsees with his umbrella. The Parsees then struck him on the head with wooden clubs, or sticks. At 7 A.M. next morning he died of the wounds received. The three men are in confinement at the British Factory, waiting the arrival of the Chief, who will, on his arrival, direct the case to be clearly investigated.

The Factory having this morning arrived in Canton, I take the earliest opportunity of laying these circumstances before your Board. The facts, as stated by me to the Merchants, contain an outline of the case, which will be more clearly explained to you when you are in possession of the evidence taken at the inquest; I must however remark, that Mr. Bovet's previous behaviour had been such, on various occasions, as to make it the subject of general conversation; and only a few days previous to this fatal event, a remonstrance was, to my knowledge, made to the Hong Merchants, stating that, unless some means were adopted to prevent his violent and unreasonable conduct, apprehensions were entertained that it must eventually lead to some serious affray.

I have the honour to be, &c.

Canton, October 4th, 1830. (signed) *H. H. Lindsay.*

To the Commanding Officer of the H. C. ship Abercrombie Robinson.

Sir,

THE bearer of this letter will deliver into your charge three Parsees, whom I hereby direct you to keep in safe custody until further orders.

I do not wish that any unnecessary severity should be exercised in confining these men beyond what may be required to prevent their escape, against which every precaution must be taken.

Canton, 4th October 1830. } I remain, &c.
(signed) *Wm. Baynes.*

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, dated 5th October 1830.

THE following Letter, enclosing the depositions taken in consequence of the death of Captain Mackenzie, was received from Mr. Senn Van Basel, the provisional acting Netherlands Consul.

(Translation.)

To William Baynes, Esq., Chief for all British Affairs in China.

Sir,

WE have the honour to remit to you an attested copy of all the depositions made during the investigation on the death of Captain Mackenzie, and upon which the jury gave their verdict, which we had the honour to send to Mr. Lindsay on the 2d instant during your absence.

We take this opportunity to tender our thanks for the assistance we have received from Mr. Lindsay whilst acting on your behalf, and for his offer to give us every assistance in his power during the investigation of this unfortunate affair.

We have the honour to be, &c.

(signed) *M. J. Senn Van Basel,*
Prov[l] Netherlands Consul in China.

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China Papers.

The following Documents were received from the Merchants.

The Merchants concerning Captain Mackenzie.

Death of Mr. Mackenzie.

A RESPECTFUL communication concerning the Dutch Captain Ma-kun-che (Mackenzie) having been wounded to death. We have at present received an order from the Viceroy, commanding us to examine and report, and also to communicate the order to you, gentlemen. Accordingly we now take a copy of the Governor's order, and send it to you, hoping that you will examine and act in accordance with it. This is the burden we impose on you. We specially make this communication, and with compliments subscribe ourselves.

(signed) *Howqua.*
Mowqua.
(12 Names.)

To Messrs. Baynes, &c.
8 m. 17 d.

From Governor Le respecting the death of Captain Mackenzie, dated 2d October.

Le, Member of the Military Board, Governor, &c. to the Hong Merchants, for their full information:

ON the 16th day of the 8th moon of Taou Kwang, Wăn-che-hwăng, the Foo-tseang of Khang Chow-hiĕ, reported that Fan-ting-yew, the Tseintsung, at the Se-kwan guard house belonging to the Left Battalion, had officially stated to him that Hwang-teen-gan, a street soldier, had informed him that on the 15th of the present month, at the Dutch Foreign Factory, No. 4, a Dutch Captain Ma-keen-che (Makenzie) had an altercation and angry quarrel with the Parsee Supracargoes Feilun (Fearon), Malowmangee (Merwangee), and others. Feilun and the others headed * some foreigners with sharp weapons, with which they stabbed and wounded Mackenzie's head and body, which caused his death. The Supracargoes of the several nations immediately secured the murderers. It is now intended to send them back to their own country, to be tried, &c.

* Or led forth.

Thus the affair was stated to the Tsein-tsung, who stated it to me, who hold the mean office of Foo-tseang, and I write the facts, and lay the affair before your Excellency.

Thus the affair came before me, the Governor, and on examination, I find that foreigners in China causing the death of foreigners, have for a long time past always been reported by the Hong Merchants to the Heen Magistrate, that he might examine the body, and report to all his superiors, that they might manage according to the facts.

Now in the foreigner Mackenzie's case, how the bloody quarrel originated, how he was wounded, and his death caused, has not been reported by the said Hong Merchants. An order is hereby issued to them, requiring them immediately to examine distinctly into the origin of the quarrel, why the Dutch Captain, Mackenzie had an altercation and angry quarrel with the Parsee Supracargoes Feilun, Malowmangee and others, so that they wounded and caused his death; also what the name and surname of the murderer † is, and send back a true report, that having proof, the affair may be managed.

† Or murderers.

Moreover, as to the murderer in custody, direct the said nation's Chief to keep him under a severe and strict guard, and wait for our management of the affair Oppose not. These are the orders.

Taoukwang, 10th year, 8th month, 16th day.

We deem it an act of justice to state, that the criminal charge preferred against Mr. Fearon, who is represented in the foregoing report to have headed the assailants in the late disastrous affray, is totally groundless. The testimony of every witness examined at the Netherlands Consulate acquits Mr. Fearon of all participation in the quarrel; and subsequent inquiry leads us to believe that the Chinese soldier who sent in to his superiors the first official narrative, received his information from Mr. Bovet.

Pwan,

Pwan, the Nanhae Magistrate, concerning Mackenzie's death, dated October 4th; received 5th, 1830.

Death of Mr. Mackenzie.

PWAN, Nanhae Heen, &c. hereby issues orders to the Hong Merchants, for their full information. It appears on record that at the Dutch Foreign Factory, a Dutch Captain, Mackenzie, had an altercation and angry quarrel with the Parsee Supracargoes *Feilun* and *Malowmanche*. Feilun and the others led * forth foreigners, bearing sharp weapons, with which they stabbed and wounded Mackenzie's head, and caused his death.

Yesterday † was received a notification from the Governor, saying, that in cases of foreigners causing the death of foreigners, the practice for a long time has been, that the Hong Merchants should report to the Hein that he might examine the body, and report to all his superiors, that they might manage according to the facts; but on the present occasion the Hong Merchants have not reported how the bloody quarrel arose, in which the foreigner Mackenzie was wounded and killed. Let the Heen immediately command (the Merchants) to examine clearly into the subject, and make a general report. At the same time, let the Heen examine the body of the foreigner, delineate on paper the situation of his wounds, and report to all the superior officers, that they may examine into the facts.

At that time I issued orders to the said Merchants to obey accordingly, but from that time to this they have not yet presented a petition requesting an examination of the body, which very much indicates a trifling with the subject.

On examination it appears that foreigners, when in this country they commit crimes, it is right that they should implicitly obey the orders of the Government of the Celestial Empire, and await for examination and management. How can they be allowed to indulge in obstinate opposition.

On search being made, it is found that in the 45th year of Keen Lung (A. D. 1780), there was one Lewshe, a French foreign sailor, who being drunk, and having quarrelled with his companion *Akeala*, took a knife and killed Akeala. He fled, and hid himself, but was taken. In that case the report was made by the Hong Merchants to the Heen to examine the body, interrogate the witnesses, and report to his superiors, for their management.

Searching further back, there have been several cases in which foreigners have killed foreigners, and heretofore they have all been managed thus. In this case the affair is the same in law, and doubtless should be managed in the same manner.

I now write the above circumstances, and send a copy of the Edict to the said Hong Merchants for their obedience, that they immediately make themselves clearly acquainted with the recorded cases, and make an accurate inquiry into the causes how the bloody quarrel arose, in which he was wounded and killed; also where the corpse now is; whether it be interred or not? What the name and surname of the murderous foreigner ‡ is? Whether or not he has been taken? Let an immediate and true answer be sent to these questions, that I, the Heen Magistrate, may, having proof, examine the body, interrogate the parties, and report to superior officers. Oppose not. A special Edict.

‡ Or foreigners.

Appended is a report made to the Emperor in the case of Lew-she killing *Akeala*.

Taou Kwang, 10th year, 8th month, 18th day. (Oct. 4th, 1830.)

Mackenzie's Case.

A report made by Keolopa, the then Governor of Canton, to His Imperial Majesty *Keen* Lung, in 45th year, being A. D. 1780-1, 12th moon, 24th day.

KEOLEPA, Member of the Military Board, Governor of Canton, &c. issues this document to inform the Honourable Fooyuen, the Tetuh, and the Hoppo, concerning certain affairs.

On the 24th day of the 12th month of the 45th year of Keen Lung, I united

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* This phrase denotes in the original, acting as a leader or commander to a party.

† Or, the other day.

with

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China Papers.

Death of Mr. Mackenzie.

with the Honourable the Fooyuen Le, in presenting a respectful memorial to His Majesty (of which the following is a copy).

A memorial for the purpose of giving, or causing to be *heard* (by the Emperor) a certain business.

We humbly consider that Canton is the general resort of foreign ships, which have heretofore all remained at Whampoa, being there anchored.

A French foreigner, Lewshe, and a Portuguese foreigner, Akeala, acting as sailors on board a Hungman * ship, came to Canton. On the 11th day of the 10th moon of the 45th year of Keen Lung, in the afternoon, they went to Efung Hong in quest of a Portuguese supracargo, Melanta, to be employed as sailors. In consequence of Melanta having gone to Macao, one Pingtoo, a Portuguese third supracargo detained them for the time being in the Hong. That night both of them slept in the same room. Akeala said to Lewshe, that when he went to buy things in the shops he was in the habit of stealing, and ridiculed his worthlessness. Lewshe also reproached the other with stealing things, till at last they came to angry strife, and Akeala took out a knife he carried about him, and scored Lewshe a wound on his right jaw. Lewshe turned round and wished to run, when he further received two slashing wounds on his left side behind. Lewshe's passion being excited, he drew his knife to defend himself, and gave two slashing wounds to Akeala on his right side, from which he immediately fell and expired.

The Hong Merchants reported the occurrence to the Nanhae Magistrate, who examined clearly the wounds on the dead body, and ordered the French Chief to deliver up Lewshe to be interrogated. In his evidence he acknowledged, without denial the preceding circumstances, and Lewshe was sentenced to be strangled. This being reported to the higher authorities, we again examined and found that in the 25th year of Keen Lung, a Dutch sailor, Weilim Peetse, being in China, with a knife slashed to death Keet-che Na, a foreigner. Le, a former Governor, in accordance with foreign laws, forthwith put him to death on board the ship where he committed the offence, and so concluded the affair, as is on record.

On the present occasion, the French sailor, Lewshe, caused the death of the Portuguese foreigner Akeala. The circumstances and the crimes were the same, and it is therefore right to act in imitation of the precedent. We, therefore, on the 19th day of the 11th moon, deputed the Footseung of the Middle Battalion, Yung-gan, and the Tsantseang Metoze jin, together with the Le teen pei, the Che-foo of Kwang Chow, and Seu-yu-fan, the Nan-hae-Heen, to summon altogether the respective foreigners (or heads of companies), to take the murderous foreigner, Lewsne, to the front of the Efung Hong, the place where he had committed the offence, and in the sight of all equally, according to law, using a cord, squeeze him to death, in order to illustrate the laws of the nation.

The acting Judge, Chinshing-tsoo, prepared in order the confessions, and reported them to us. Beside informing the Supreme Board of these confessions, we now unite the circumstances and reasons of our proceedings, and report them to the throne, prostrate, begging that the Emperor over all will, with his intuitive wisdom, direct the Board to examine and conform and concede, that it may be done. Reverently reported, &c.

Now on the 21st of the 3d moon of the 46th year of Keen Lung, being on the road at Yaechow, the Vermilion reply has been received, saying,

" Let the appropriate Board know it. Respect this."

Uniting these circumstances, we forthwith by letter inform the appropriate Sze, that he may meet with the Pooching Sze, and transmit the order to be reverently obeyed, examined and acted on without opposition.

One letter to be sent to the Fooyuen, another to the Tetuh, and a third to the Hoppo, who are all styled Honourable.

Keen Lung, 22d day, 3d moon, 46th year.

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* Hungman, " red bristled," was formerly an appellation of the Dutch; latterly, it has been distinctive of the English.

Hoo, the Pwanyu Magistrate, concerning Captain Mackenzie's death. October 4th; received October 5th, 1830.

Death of Mr. Mackenzie.

Hoo, the Pwanyu Heen, issues this for the purpose of transferring the commands of a superior, that obedience may be paid thereto.

On the 18th day of the 8th moon of the 10th year of Taoukwang, I received from the Fooyuen a document, and opening it found it as follows:

"On the 16th day of the 8th moon of the 10th year of Taoukwang, Wăn-chĕhwăn, the Show-foo-tseang of Kwang-chow-ching, stated that Fan-ting-yew, the Tseen-tsung at the Se-kwan guardhouse, belonging to the Left Battalion, had reported to him that Kwang-teen-gan, a street soldier, had informed him, that on the 15th of the present month, at the Dutch Foreign Factory No. 4, a Dutch Captain, Me-keen-che (Mackenzie), had an altercation and angry quarrel with the Parsee Supracargoes Feilum, Malowmangee and others. Feilum and the others headed * some foreigners with sharp weapons, with which they stabbed and wounded Mackenzie's head and body, which caused his death. The Supracargoes of the several nations immediately secured the murderers †. It is now intended to send them back to their own country to be tried, &c.

* Or led forth.

† Or murderer.

"Thus the affair came before me, the Fooyuen, and accordingly I, besides passing it to the Gawchaze, that he might transfer my orders and enjoin obedience thereto, unite the above circumstances, and send this prepared document to the Heen magistrate, that he may forthwith, in obedience hereto make haste, and in company with the Nan hae Heen, take the Linguist and the official Examiner of dead bodies, belonging to the Criminal Office, and go and take Mackenzie's body, and immediately examine it, delineate on paper the situation of his wounds, and report to all the superior officers. At the same time, let them examine clearly how the foreigners Feilun and the others commenced the bloody quarrel and angry strife, and led forth the foreigners, who with sharp weapons stabbed and wounded Mackenzie so that he died; and also what are the names of the murderous foreigners; and let them the same day write out the evidence, and examine according to cases that have formerly taken place; consult together, and report to all the superior officers, that they may manage according to the facts, &c.

I, the Pwon yu Hein, having received this, besides sending it to the Nan hae Heen, that he may accompany me to examine the body, also unite the above circumstances, and forthwith issue an order for your information. When the order reaches you, the Hong Merchants Woo-show ‡, Chang and the others, make yourselves fully acquainted with the subject, and immediately communicate the order to the Linguists, that they may go to the Dutch Foreign Factory and order the body to be delivered up; and then wait till I in company with the Nan hae Heen arrive personally to examine it. Do you the said Merchants also examine clearly what are the names of the murderous foreigners §, and the causes whence the bloody quarrel originated, and report back again. Oppose not. A special Edict.

‡ Howqua, jun.

§ Or foreigner.

Taoukwang, 10th year, 8th moon, 18th day. (October 4th, 1830.)

EXTRACT China Consultations, 6th October 1830.

WE write the following letter to Mr. Van Basel, acknowledging the receipt of his address recorded under date the 5th instant.

To M. J. Senn Van Basel, Esq., Provisional Netherlands Consul in China.

Sir,

We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter enclosing a copy of the depositions taken during the investigation held at the Netherlands Consulate, upon the death of Captain F. Mackenzie, Commander of the Dutch ship Vrow Helena.

We shall take into consideration the circumstances attending this melancholy affair without delay.

We have the honour to be, &c.

Canton, 6th October 1830. Signed by the Select Committee.

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EXTRACT China Consultations, 7th October 1830.

Death of Mr. Mackenzie.

THE Committee assembled to take into consideration what measures it might be proper to adopt in consequence of the unfortunate death of Captain Mackenzie, three British subjects being implicated in the affair.

The Committee, after having perused with attention the depositions taken before M. Sen Van Basel, were unanimously of opinion that any further examination of witnesses by them would be unnecessary and impolitic. In the present case, the verdict of an English jury would probably be that of manslaughter; but were it even a case of murder, we have no authority to institute judicial proceedings; and no difference of opinion can exist as to the extreme impolicy of allowing the Chinese Government to interfere where their own countrymen are not concerned.

Although, judging from the documents previously recorded, it would seem that the Chinese Government does in principle take cognizance of the acts of foreigners among themselves; yet the indifference evinced by the Hong Merchants, and the documents being addressed generally to the foreign nations' Chiefs, would incline to the belief, that in practice it cares little to interfere. Unfortunately, however, any disturbance in which foreigners are engaged is almost sure to afford a rich harvest to many of the officers of this corrupt government, who in consequence are ever on the watch to take advantage of any opportunity to exact from the Hong Merchants. Casual interruptions to the trade injure not or involve the authorities of Canton; and it is only when the stoppage of commercial transactions is lengthened to a period which interferes with the collection of the imperial duties that they are alarmed for the consequences. It should be the great object of the Company's representatives in this country to impress upon them the idea, that interruptions and annoyances when once commenced are not so easily or quickly arranged, and above all, to inculcate the maxim, that though the trade may have its advantages, these will never be purchased, by Englishmen at least, at the price of national disgrace. Submission to insult has shown the Chinese how valuable is the trade, and they have acted accordingly, in too many instances, in interrupting and annoying it; and hence perhaps has originated the erroneous supposition, that to them the trade is a matter of indifference. The Committee are prepared to act with decision, but are unwilling to be dragged into the business, and consider it their duty to keep as much in the back ground as possible until compelled to take a part; but in regard to the three Parsees, the best course appears to be to send them by the first opportunity to Bombay. After they are out of the country, the Viceroy must see the difficult situation in which he places himself in prolonging a question and taking up a position from which he must recede, should he demand the surrender of the culprits. As copies of the above documents have been received by Mr. Sen Van Basel, and as he has in the first instance instituted the investigation, we shall leave to him the task of replying to the inquiries of the Government. It is proper to observe, that Mr. Sen Van Basel, in the interviews he has had with the President on the subject, has testified his concurrence in the measures proposed to be adopted by the Committee in sending the Parsees to Bombay, and that no wish has been expressed by him of having them delivered over to the Chinese laws.

It is resolved, therefore, to send the three Parsees to Bombay by the ship Edmonstone, now on the eve of departure, together with the depositions taken before the Netherlands Consul, for the full information of the Honourable the Governor in Council. Copies of the depositions we shall transmit to England, numbers in the packets of the Honourable Company's ships Thomas Coutts and Duchess of Athol. In searching the records for precedents, the Committee perceive, in the Consultations of the 14th December 1780, that precisely the same view was taken by the Select Committee of that period as to the dangerous precedent of allowing the Chinese Government to interfere in cases of homicide where their own subjects are not concerned. As the case appears somewhat similar, the extract is now recorded.

Extract from the Diary of Consultations, &c. for the year 1780.

The following is the case referred to by the Governor of Canton in his Edict relating to Captain Mackenzie's death:

" Some time ago a French seaman belonging to the Success galley country ship killed a Portuguese sailor belonging to the Stormont, in one of the merchant's houses. The man took refuge at the French Consul's, where he remained for many days, but at last was given up to the Chinese, and was this morning publicly strangled by order of the Fooyuen. This is the first instance of one European being executed for the murder of another, and appears to be a very dangerous precedent, as it may involve Europeans in inextricable difficulties, if even by accident one man should kill another. The man executed to-day could have no trial of common justice. The affair happened between him and the deceased in Seunqua's Hong at night, nobody knowing of the quarrel till the Stormont's man was killed; and we do not understand that the Chinese Government took any means in their courts to find out the truth. Foreigners are not here allowed the benefit of Chinese laws, though in this instance one of them suffers by the rigour of them, nor have they any privileges in common with the natives. They are governed merely by such rules as the Mandarins for the time being declare to be their will; and the reason why so few inconveniences happen from irregularities is, that the officers of government on such occasions rather choose to exact money from the Security Merchants, Compradores, &c. than use rigorous methods, by which they gain nothing; their corruption therefore in part is the foreigner's security."

EXTRACT China Consultations, October 10, 1830.

BY the Edmonstone, bound for Bombay, we direct our Secretary to write the following letter to Mr. Secretary Newnham:

To William Newnham, Esq. Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

Sir,

Par. 1. I am directed by the President and Select Committee to make known to you, for the information of the Honourable the Governor in Council, the following circumstances which have lately occurred in Canton.

2. On the evening of the 30th September an affray took place in what is called the Dutch Hong in Canton, in which a Captain Mackenzie, commander of the Dutch ship Vrow Helena, lost his life in consequence of wounds inflicted by three Parsees, by name, Nowrojee, Framjee and Jamsetjee, servants of Merwanjee Hormajee, a Parsee Merchant, residing in Canton.

3. This affray appears to have originated in a misunderstanding, in consequence of a Mr. Bovet, a Swiss, by profession a watchmaker, who resides in the same Hong with Merwanjee Hormajee, arrogating to himself the right of keeping possession of a key, and by that means closing a public way leading into the street. It appears that Merwanjee Hormajee sent several times to demand this key, which demand not being complied with, he directed his servants to break the lock, which they did. Mr. Bovet hearing what was going on, ran out with a sword, which he attempted to draw on the three Parsee servants above mentioned, and on the sword being wrested from him, ran away, crying " Murder," which Captain Mackenzie, who resides in apartments in the same Hong, hearing, came out to his (Bovet's) assistance, and struck with an umbrella the Parsees, who then fell upon him, and with the sticks with which they had forced the locks inflicted the wounds, of which he died on the following day.

4. The first official intimation the Select Committee received of this unfortunate occurrence was a letter from Mr. Senn Van Basil, the Provisional Netherlands Consul, inclosing a certified copy of the depositions taken in the investigation he had instituted into the circumstances of the death of Captain Mackenzie.

5. On the receipt of these documents the Committee lost no time in assembling to take into consideration the measures it might be proper to adopt in consequence of three British subjects being implicated in the affair.

6. The Honourable the Governor in Council is no doubt aware of the peculiar situation in which the representatives of the Honourable Company and the English nation are placed in this country, without authority to act judicially. [illegible]

II. China Papers.

Death of Mr. Mackenzie.

even perhaps strictly speaking to administer an oath, which could be received as evidence in an English court of justice; the uncertainty that exists whether any or what notice would be taken by the Chinese Government of the acts of foreigners where death occurred, added to the difficulties of the situation in which the Representatives of the Company found themselves placed. For, should the Chinese authorities have demanded the surrender of the Parsees, for the purpose of being tried by the sanguinary law of this empire, the President and Select Committee clearly perceived the impossibility of a compliance; and after giving the subject mature deliberation, no other course appeared open to them but that of removing the Parsees from Canton as soon as possible, and sending them by the first opportunity to Bombay, with all the evidence transmitted to the Select Committee by Mr. Senn Van Basil.

7. In consequence, the three Parsees, Nowrojee, Framjee, and Jamsetjee, have been sent on board the country ship Edmonstone, with orders to the Commander to carry them to Bombay, and to detain them on board until he has received instructions from the Honourable the Governor in Council on the subject.

8. The President and Select Committee do not consider themselves competent to give an opinion as to the nature of the crime which by the laws of England would attach to the Parsees in question, but consider it their duty to observe that the conduct of Mr. Bovet, in taking possession of a key, to which he had no right, and in attacking the Parsees with a sword (which facts are undisputed), has excited in this community a strong feeling of indignation against him, which is perhaps heightened by his well known quarrelsome disposition, and from his having been the indirect cause of the death of an innocent man in the person of Captain Mackenzie.

9. I have the honour to enclose a copy of the letter received from Mr. Senn Van Basil, together with the depositions referred to, and remain,

Sir, &c. &c.

Canton, 11th October 1830. (signed) *George Best Robinson*, Acting Secretary.

EXTRACT CHINA CONSULTATIONS, dated 12th October 1830.

IN pursuance of the resolution adopted in the Consultation October the 7th, we direct our Secretary to write the following Letter to Captain Hadley, ordering him to receive the three Parsees on board his ship:

To Captain Hadley, Commander of the Country Ship Edmonstone.

Sir,

I AM directed by the President and Select Committee to request that you will take charge of the three Parsees, named Nowrojee, Framjee and Jamsetjee, prisoners on board the Honourable Company's ship Abercrombie Robinson, and convey them to Bombay, where you will be pleased to await the instructions of the Honourable the Governor in Council for their future disposal. I am also directed to desire that the accompanying Despatches may be delivered to the Secretary to Government on your arrival at Bombay.

I am, &c. &c.

Canton, 12th October 1830. (signed) *George Best Robinson*, Secretary.

Our Secretary is likewise directed to write the following Letter to the commanding officer on board the Honourable Company's ship Abercrombie Robinson:

To the Commanding Officer on board the Honourable Company's Ship Abercrombie Robinson.

Sir,

I AM directed by the President and Select Committee to direct that the three Parsees, named Nowrojee, Framjee and Jamsetjee, prisoners on board the Abercrombie Robinson, be delivered to Captain Hadley, Commander of the country ship Edmonstone.

I am, &c. &c.

Canton, 12th October 1830. (signed) *George Best Robinson*, Secretary.

To the Merchants, by Pwan the Nan-hae-Heen, on the case of Captain Mackenzie's death; dated 11th October, received 12th, 1830.

PWAN, promoted by Imperial Order, hereby issues an Order to the Hong Merchants for their full information.

It is substantiated that these Merchants have presented a petition, in which they say,

We have humbly and respectfully received your Benevolence's official Order, on opening which we find it stated—[Here follows a Copy of No. 2, before translated.]

On receiving this we, the Hong Merchants, in obedience thereto, immediately instituted an inquiry into the several topics. It is authenticated that the Dutch Flag-keeping Chief, Fan-pa-shin, said verbally, on the 15th of the 8th moon, having heard that Captain Mackenzie had been wounded, and died, we immediately assembled outside nation's Foreign Merchants. Twelve persons, all having sworn that they would investigate according to the truth, examined the body, and found that the wounds had been inflicted on the forehead and other places with wooden bludgeons, and that he had died in consequence of the wounds. They strictly inquired who inflicted the wounds, and found that they were not natives of this country, but Indian white-head (Parsee) foreigners, Fa-lan-che, Now-loche, Yans-ayche, three persons, who, with a wooden bludgeon, thrashed and wounded Mekeenche, and caused his death. The three murderers, foreigners, have been apprehended. These murderers, foreigners, Fa-lan-che, Now-loche and Yans-ayche, were delivered over to the English Company's Chief, to be kept under strict custody till they are sent to their country, to be justly tried according to foreign laws. As to Makeenchie's body, it was by the foreigners coffined on the 15th of the month, and sent to Whampoa in a foreign boat, where it was interred. It is earnestly entreated that opening the coffin and examining the body may be dispensed with, and the foreigners will be very grateful. Thus the affair came before us, the Hong Merchants; and we immediately went to the English Foreign Factory to inquire, and found that the said murderers, foreigners, Fa-lan-che, &c. three in number, had been sent down by the English Company's Chief to Whampoa, on board a foreign ship, where they were kept in close custody. Uniting these circumstances, we report distinctly, in reply to the order we received to examine into the facts, &c. I, the Nan-hae-Heen, find that in cases of homicide it is absolutely necessary to examine clearly the wounds on the body, and to investigate clearly how the bloody quarrel arose; also who struck first, and who afterwards, who was the principal murderer, and who accessary; then a discrimination may be made, and the crime decided on. It is never the case that the wounds on the body should remain unexamined, nor who commenced the bloody quarrel should remain uninquired into, nor who was the person that inflicted such a wound. Thus the business may be managed. Further, it is found that a long time past, repeatedly, when foreigners caused the death of foreigners, the Hong Merchants reported to the Heen Magistrate to examine the body, interrogate the parties, report to the superiors, and manage. In this case the affair is the same, and ought to be managed in the same manner.

How the Dutch Flag-keeping Chief, Han-ha-Shin, has not inquired clearly into the causes of the bloody quarrel, nor stated who inflicted the blow in such a place, nor who struck previously, and who afterwards, nor pointed out all the circumstances minutely, but abruptly requests that an examination of the body may be dispensed with. This is very wrong.

And the murderers being natives of a dependency of England, the said nation's Company's Chief, in refusing to speak on the subject, has acted still more improperly.

Writing these things, I hereby issue an order to the Hong Merchants to transmit immediately my orders to the English Company's Chief, and the Dutch Flag-keeping Chief, to inquire instantly into the causes of the bloody quarrel, what person used what thing, and inflicted a wound in what place; also, who previously and who afterwards struck the blows. Let these circumstances be stated in reply, and according to the laws of the nation, to who it is that determines the crime on this kind of murderous foreigners; that having proof, I may repair in person to

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examine the body, discriminate and manage, according to the facts. Do not indulge in confused reservations, for doing so will involve you in serious guilt. Hasten! Hasten! A special Edict.

Taoukwang, 10th year, 8th moon, 25th day.

EXTRACT China Consultations, the 13th October 1830.

WE have this day received from the Merchants the following Edict from the Quangchow Foo, relative to Captain Mackenzie's case.

Governor Le, by the Kwanchow Foo, requiring the body of Captain Mackenzie to be delivered up to the Chinese by the Dutch, and the three murderers by the English. Dated October 12th 1830, received 13th.

Hoo, the Kwanchow Foo, to the Hong Merchants.

On the 25th of the 8th moon, of the 10th year of Taoukwang, respectfully was received an official document from Le, Governor of Canton, &c. It is proved by papers on record, that the Kwanchow Lee reported concerning a Dutch foreigner, Mekeenchee.—[Here follows a copy of the soldier's report before translated. Next the orders the Governor gave to the Hong Merchants, already translated.]

On examination it is found that for a long time past foreigners being in this country and causing the death of foreigners, in every case the local officers have interrogated the parties, examined the body, and reported to their superiors. The murderers, though in this country, were punished according to foreign laws.

In the present case the Dutch foreigner was killed by an Indian foreigner. India is under the Government of the English; it is therefore right to order the said nation's Company's Chief to take the murderers, foreigners, and deliver them up for trial and judgment.

That which the Kwanchow Lee stated in his report, that all the Chiefs wished to send the party back to their own country to be prosecuted, is contrary to old regulations, and decidedly cannot be allowed.

Beside directing the Nan-hae-Heen to command forthwith the Hong Merchants to communicate it authoritatively and distinctly to the English Chief, that he must examine and conform to the old cases in law, and hasten to take the murderers, and investigate clearly who was head, and who followers, and on the same day deliver them up and wait for our management according to the repeatedly recorded precedents.

The Celestial Empire's laws and regulations decidedly will not endure the least opposition. When the murderers, foreigners, are delivered up, let the said Heen immediately report for investigation.

Uniting these things an order is hereby issued to the said Foo, to take under his direction the said Heen, and manage safely and swiftly, and without opposition, &c.

On the same day was further received from Le, the Governor of Canton, a document as follows:

[Here the soldier's first report, and the order to examine the body are repeated.]

But up to this day no examination or report has taken place. It is found that heretofore foreigners in this country causing the death of foreigners, it has always been the case that the remains were examined by the local officers. Now, in the present case, the affair should be managed according to old precedents. It is impossible to allow foreigners to indulge in procrastination.

Let the Nan-hae-Heen immediately communicate orders to the Hong Merchants and Linguists to ascertain where the coffined body is, and order the Dutch foreigner to deliver up the body to be ready for examination. Let the said Heen make haste, and report back that having proof a Weiynen may be deputed and join the others, and go to examine the wounds on the body, and report generally to superior officers, that they may manage according to the facts. The case compromises the laws of the Celestial Empire, and it must not be presumed to disobey

obey. How can it be permitted to the said foreigners to act as they please, and when an inquest should be taken, not take an inquest. The said Heen must not again delay; he will thereby incur guilt.

An order is also hereby sent to the said Foo, to take the lead of the said Heen, and immediately examine clearly, and give orders to deliver up the coffined body, and to wait till a Weiynen be deputed to join the party and examine the remains. No delay is allowed. Hasten! hasten!

This coming to me Kwangchow Foo Tse [he here reiterates the orders of the preceding without any additional remark, except a threat that disobedience will involve the parties in great guilt.]

EXTRACT China Consultations, dated 18th October 1830.

To his Excellency the Viceroy of Canton.

WE have received from the Merchants your Excellency's Letter, demanding the surrender of three Parsees, British subjects, who were implicated in the late affray in the Dutch Hong, in which Captain Mackenzie lost his life.

We have to inform your Excellency that the three men in question have been sent to Bombay to be tried by the laws of England; and if, on examination, it shall appear that they were not the aggressors, that they were first attacked by a person with an offensive weapon, a sword, it will operate very strongly in their favour, and their punishment will not be so severe as it otherwise would have been. The Dutch Chief, under whose protection the deceased was, has sent us the depositions taken in evidence before him, which we have transmitted with the Parsees to Bombay. By this evidence it appears that a person residing in the Dutch Hong, took possession of a key, and stopped up a public way; that on these Parsees attempting to break the lock, they were attacked by a person with a sword, who then ran away; Captain Mackenzie hearing the disturbance, came up at the moment, and with an umbrella struck the men, who thereupon, it being dark, returned the blows of which he died. The Dutch Chief has not complained of our having sent the men away; there is no one who petitions; of what use is it therefore to lengthen discussions without an object, for the men are gone; why disturb the remains and repose of the dead, which are held so sacred in all civilized countries; the surgeons have examined and disfigured the body; how then can the wounds be discovered? We pray your Excellency to give orders that the body be not again disturbed, a ceremony so revolting to all foreigners.

We have thus given your Excellency a statement of the affair, which is in accordance with evidence we have received, and hope your Excellency will there let the matter rest. If the men, by the laws of England, are found guilty, they will most assuredly be punished.

Signed by the President.

EXTRACT China Consultations, 20th October 1830.

THE Committee having assembled to meet the Hong Merchants, Howqua proceeded to speak to the following purpose, having, in the first place, particularly requested that all he said should be taken down in writing:

"Yesterday all the Hong Merchants waited on the Viceroy, who told us that the Committee had sent in a chop the previous day, stating that the three Parsees demanded by Government were gone away, and cannot therefore be delivered up for trial.

"The Viceroy says, that this proceeding is in opposition to the Chinese laws, and cannot be suffered. The demand for the three guilty men is not founded upon any new law. A similar demand was made by the Government in the 45th year of Keen Lung (1780). It is the ancient law, no new regulation of the present Viceroy. If the men were not now demanded, hereafter there would be no restraining law. The strongest foreigner would destroy the weaker.

"The Viceroy is desirous to show reason. When a man is murdered in another Province, Keangsye for example, the Governor of Canton cannot settle the business. Justice must be administered where the crime is committed. The Viceroy

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is desirous to do strict justice, he has no wish to introduce a new law to oppress foreigners: Mackenzie's case must be referred to the Emperor. The Viceroy must have the three Parsees; it is not a mere formal demand.

"When the three men shall be brought up, the Committee may keep them in custody in the Company's Factory. The investigation may be held according to English forms.

"The Viceroy does not require the accused to be taken into the city; deputed Mandarins will assemble in the Factory, and with the Committee hold a court for the trial. Mandarins must be present, but the men to be examined according to English usage. When the trial is finished, if the men are acquitted of the crime of murder, the Committee must show reason to the Viceroy why not guilty. If condemned by English laws, the men shall be executed on your own premises in presence of the Mandarins.

"The Merchants are ordered by the Viceroy to explain the whole case clearly to Committee.

"If the men are really gone, a ship must be immediately despatched to bring them back, and the Viceroy to be informed in what time they will be produced. The An-Cha-Sze has ordered the Hong Merchants to bring the Committee's answer to day, whether the men are gone or not."

Howqua then delivered the Viceroy's reply to our address of the 16th instant, which was as follows:

From Governor Le, demanding the delivery of the three Parsees; dated October 19th, received 20th, 1830.

LE, Member of the Military Board, &c., hereby issues orders to the Hong Merchants, with which they must make themselves fully acquainted.

It is authenticated that the English Chief Baynes and others have presented a Statement, saying—[Here follows a Copy of the Committee's Letter of October 16th, 1830.]

On this coming before me, the Governor, I have examined the proceedings in this case, and find that I have repeatedly ordered the Merchants to enjoin my orders on the English Company's* Chief to deliver up the murderous foreigner (or foreigners) to be tried and punished.

As to the wounds on Mackenzie's corpse, the Nan hae Heen was ordered to go and examine them, as is on record.

Now said Chief and others have by no means made haste to deliver up the murderers, but turn round and say that the three men have been sent in custody to Bombay, where they will be tried according to English law, &c.

This scheming craftily to shove off the business from themselves, not knowing that in China foreigners killing foreigners, must take the murderer, and in China put him to death according to the foreign mode.

The case is established by former precedents.

Now the murderer who caused Mackenzie's death should be punished agreeably to old regulations. How suffer the said Chief and others to indulge themselves in opposition?

With speed, therefore, is issued to the said merchants an order to enjoin perspicuously my orders on the English Company's Chief, that he must take the foreigners who on that day fought, and instantly deliver them up, that a clear investigation may be made who the murderer was, and the character of his crime determined, Then let a report be made to me, the Governor, that I may send an officer to see that in China, according to law, how the affair has been managed. The laws and regulations of the Celestial Empire are luminously handed down from former times. No second opposition and procrastination will be allowed. You will thereby involve yourselves in guilt and the crime of perverseness. Intensely, intensely, are these orders given.

Taou Kwang, 10th year, 9th month, 3d day. (19th October 1830.)

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* The translator observes a *change* of phrase of late; formerly, it was the English *nation*'s chief; now it is Factory or Company's chief.

EXTRACT China Consultations, 21st October 1830.

THE following short Address to the Viceroy, in reply to his Edict received yesterday respecting the Parsees, was delivered to the Merchants, who then withdrew.

To His Excellency the Viceroy of Canton.

We have received your Excellency's letter respecting the delivery of the three Parsees to be tried by the Chinese authorities, and have now only to inform your Excellency that our last letter contained all the information we can afford on the subject.

EXTRACT China Consultations, 22d October 1830.

THE following Chop from the Nan hae Heen respecting the case of Captain Mackenzie has this day been delivered to us.

From the Nan hae Heen, requiring the Parsees who were the murderers of Captain Mackenzie to be delivered up, dated October 21st, 1830.

Pwan, the Nan hae Heen, issues an order to the Linguists, with which they are to make themselves fully acquainted. There is at present an affair of Indian foreigners having given wounds to a Dutch captain, Me Keenthe (Mackenzie), of which he died. The Governor peremptorily requires them to deliver up the murderer, and however he is to be punished, according to their foreign method shall be punished. We will send officers to see and look on. This has been the way of managing heretofore, and there are cases transpired which may be examined. For the Celestial Empire's fixed regulations are, that if a man of any one place go to any other place, and there break the laws, he shall always at the place where he broke the laws be tried. If, for instance, a Canton man goes to Kwang Se, and in a quarrel takes a man's life, he must be tried at Kwang Se, and certainly not be sent in custody to Canton. Though they, the foreigners, caused the death of a foreigner, yet the crime was committed in our country; therefore it is required in this country to manage it. Because they are foreigners, therefore they shall, according to their foreign method, be punished. In their foreign method, when the murdered man strikes the first blow, how is the murderer to be punished? When three men jointly strike one man, who is to be considered as the murderer? And who appears to be the murderer (in this case) after examination? You must ask the questions one by one till you clearly understand them. When the murderers are delivered up, we also will not go to examine and inquire, and investigate fully as to who ought to die, and what is to be done with them; who ought to be let live, and what is to be done with them; they shall all be punished according to the foreign method, and we will only send officers to look on and see, and that will do. Do you take the words of my orders, and inform the Chief, for his knowledge, and come again and state to me, that I may transmit a favourable statement to the Governor. There must on no account again be any perverse disobedience, which would hurt his dignity; and then it would not look well. These are the orders.

Taou Kwang, 10th year, 9th month, 5th day. (October 21st, 1830.)

EXTRACT LETTER from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 23d October 1830.

Par. 4. UPON the arrival of the Factory in Canton, the particular circumstances of the death of Captain Mackenzie, Commander of the Dutch ship Vrow Helena, caused by three Parsee Merchants, in an affray, were communicated to us by Mr. Lindsay, who had preceeded the Factory to Canton, as well as by Mr. Sen Van Basil, Consul of his Majesty the King of the Netherlands. The following is a brief outline of this unfortunate affair:

5. Mr. Bovet, a citizen of Geneva, resident for several years in Canton, shut up a thoroughfare in the Hong, which he inhabited for the annoyance and

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inconvenience of other foreigners living in the same Hong. Upon this a Parsee Merchant, named Merwanjee, having made repeated applications to Mr. Bovet, in vain, to remove this obstruction to the free passage through the Hong, dispatched three Parsee servants with orders to break the lock which had been affixed to the door; Mr. Bovet perceiving their intentions, came out and attacked the party with a sword; the Parsees, however, succeeded in disarming Mr. Bovet, who then took to flight. Captain Mackenzie hearing a disturbance in the Hong, in which he lodged, came out to render assistance, as might appear necessary; and under a mistaken impression attacked the Parsees, whom he struck with an umbrella. The Parsees then proceeded to cudgel Captain Mackenzie with sticks or clubs, and inflicted blows, which caused his death the following morning.

6. The facts above stated had been investigated by an inquest of foreign residents in Canton, held under the superintendence of the Dutch Consul, and would probably, in an English court of justice, not implicate the three Parsees in question, in a charge of greater delinquency than that of manslaughter.

7. The Chinese authorities having already exhibited a disposition to interfere in this transaction, we determined to remove the three Parsees, British subjects, from Canton without delay, and they were sent on board the country ship Edmonstone, bound for Bombay. We have received information of the departure of the Edmonstone from China with the three Parsees above mentioned. The danger of allowing the Chinese Government to interfere upon the present occasion is too apparent to require discussion. Their sanguinary code of legislature would remain satisfied with nothing short of the life of at least one of the party implicated, and would in no way discriminate between a case of intentional murder, and one of accidental homicide; their demands for the delivery of the guilty persons would be urged as long as a hope could exist of exhibiting a display of power, by the execution of a foreigner, and would protract the discussion to an interminable period; we therefore felt that the measure which we adopted, while it offered the only protection in our power to the lives of three British subjects, was at the same time that best calculated to bring the affair to a conclusion; and if it could be necessary to adduce further argument in its favour, was the only one which the powers vested in this Committee place within their option.

8. Since the adoption of the preceding measure, the Chinese Government have demanded the delivery of the three Parsees to them for trial, and have persisted in that demand, although informed by us that they had actually left this country in a ship bound for the Presidency of Bombay, where they would be placed at the disposal of the Government, and submitted to any further trial which might be deemed proper. Their demand has since been modified in various ways, and would now appear to amount to the requisition of a trial according to foreign law, with the attendance of the Chinese authorities. We have stated in reply, the impossibility of compliance, the men having actually left the country; and the question rests in this state at present, without having affected the usual routine of our commercial transactions.

(See also Pars. 14, 15 and 18 of this Letter, in the Papers relating to the alleged breach of the laws of China, page 27 of this Paper.)

(C.)—PAPERS RELATING TO AN ARMED FORCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE COMPANY'S FACTORY AT CANTON.

EXTRACT China Consultations, 20th October 1830.

To Captain John Innes, Senior Commander of the Honourable Company's Ships in China.

Sir,

I am directed by the President and Select Committee to communicate to you their orders, that with the least possible delay, you take the necessary steps for the attendance of 100 armed seamen and two quarter-deck carronades, for the protection of the Honourable Company's Factory.

I am, &c.

(signed) *R. Hudleston*, Secretary.

Canton, 20th October 1830.

EXTRACT China Consultations, 21st October 1830.

IN the course of the night, the force required for the protection of the Factories arrived in Canton; the guns were landed in the morning, and placed at the gate of our Factories. In consequence of the measures adopted by the Commodore, and the good discipline of the Honourable Company's ships, we are happy to say that this was effected without the least confusion or disorder.

EXTRACT China Secret Consultations, dated 25th October 1830.

To Captain Innes, Senior Commander, &c. &c. &c.

Sir,

I am directed by the President and Select Committee to convey to you the following orders respecting the guard retained in the Factory, and desire that you will take the necessary steps to carry them into effect.

1. That a number of men, not exceeding one division of the guard, be allowed to go out in front of the Factory only for a limited time, daily, and under the proper superintendence of their officers; these men to be unarmed.
2. That the guard be paraded by their officers daily in the garden, in front of the Company's Factory.
3. That the total number of seamen employed as a guard, which considerably exceeds what the Committee originally contemplated, be reduced gradually to that of 100; the number of officers remaining for your consideration, and that the reduction be effected gradually at the rate of 10 men per diem.
4. That four boats, manned from the guard, and armed, be in readiness at a quarter before five every evening, to be employed on any service on which they may be required.
5. That no man be permitted to carry his arms with him out of the Factory, excepting on duty.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(signed) *H. H. Lindsay*, Act[g] Sec[y].

25th October 1830.

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Armed Force for the Protection of the Factory.

EXTRACT China Consultations, 1st November 1830.

To Captain John Innes, Commander of the Honourable Company's Ship Abercrombie Robinson, and Senior Commander of the Honourable Company's Ships in China.

Sir,

I am directed by the President and Select Committee to convey to you as Senior Commander their thanks for your conduct during the late proceedings, when prompt measures were considered necessary for the safety of British subjects in Canton, and an armed force was consequently ordered up from the Honourable Company's ships at Whampoa.

In making known to you the thanks of the President and Select Committee on this occasion, I am directed to observe that they do not limit their approbation altogether to the alacrity displayed by you in the execution of their orders, but extend it to the spirit with which you entered into their views, and the zeal displayed by you for the public service, which circumstances they shall consider it their duty to bring to the notice of the Honourable the Court of Directors.

I have, &c. &c.

(signed) *H. H. Lindsay*, Acting Secretary.

Canton, 1st Nov. 1830.

To Captain Philip Baylis, Commander of the Honourable Company's Ship Canning.

Sir,

I am directed by the President and Select Committee to convey to you their thanks for the zeal displayed by you during the late proceedings in Canton, in arranging and disciplining the men placed more immediately under your orders in the Factories. To the regularity you established, and to the discipline you introduced among the seamen, may be in a great measure attributed the absence of all accidents, a circumstance highly conducive to the interests of the Honourable Company, and creditable to your abilities as an officer. I am directed to observe, that your conduct on this occasion will be brought to the favourable notice of the Honourable the Court of Directors.

I have, &c. &c.

(signed) *H. H. Lindsay*, Acting Secretary.

Canton, 1st Nov. 1830.

To the Commanders and Officers of the Honourable Company's Ships in China.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the President and Select Committee to convey to you their thanks for the zeal and alacrity displayed by you during the late proceedings, when circumstances rendered it necessary to order up an armed force from Whampoa, for the safety of British subjects in Canton. The promptitude with which the orders of the President and Select Committee were executed on this occasion, and the good conduct of the men during their stay in the Factories, are circumstances highly creditable to their officers, and to the discipline of their respective ships, and will not fail to be made known to the Honourable Court of Directors.

I have, &c. &c.

(signed) *H. H. Lindsay*, Acting Secretary.

Canton, 1st Nov. 1830.

(D.)—PAPERS RELATING TO ORDERS FOR SHIPS MOVING DOWN THE RIVER TO RETURN THE FIRE OF THE FORTS, &c. OF THE CHINESE.

EXTRACT China Consultations, dated 16th November 1830.

Notwithstanding the Grand Chops for the ships now under despatch have been regularly applied for more than a week ago, those of the Thomas Coutts and William Fairlie only have been issued. We have several times informed the Merchants that the despatch of the ships could not be delayed, and Puankhequa and Fatqua, who secure the Duchess of Athol and Dunira have promised to be in time; but not having made up their accounts, the Grand Chops are not yet forthcoming.

We consider it absolutely necessary at the first despatch of the season to convince the Merchants that our ships, when ready, will positively sail, or else the same thing will assuredly happen again, and ships may be detained an indefinite period after their despatches are closed. We do not apprehend any difficulty in this instance, as the ships in question will follow the other two, who have pilots, and will probably have the same fishermen on board, who would have acted as guides to the legally constituted pilots. We therefore direct our Secretary to write the following letter to Captains Wilson and Daniell, for their guidance.

To Captain Daniell, Commander of the Honourable Company's Ship Duchess of Athol.

Sir,

I am instructed by the President and Select Committee to direct, that in the event of your not receiving your Grand Chop with the Honourable Company's packet, you weigh anchor, and proceed down the river in company with the Honourable Company's ships Thomas Coutts and William Fairlie. In case you should be fired at by the forts at the Bocca Tigris, you are in the first instance to return with blank cartridge; but should your ship be struck, and the lives of the crew endangered, you are permitted to fire ball.

I have the honour, &c. &c.

Canton, 16th Nov. 1830. (signed) *H. H. Lindsay*, Secretary.

EXTRACT China Consultations, dated 18th November 1830.

WE have received the following Letter from Captain Wilson:

H. H. Lindsay, Esq. Secretary.

Sir,

I beg to acquaint you, for the information of the President and Select Committee, that the Honourable Company's ship Dunira, under my command, proceeded from Second Bar this morning, agreeably to the instructions received. On passing through the Bague, a gun (not shotted) was fired from the fort, and the same returned by me.

I have, &c.

17th November 1830. (signed) *J. P. Wilson.*

EXTRACT China Consultations, dated 19th November 1831.

THE following Letter, from Captain Daniell, has been this day received:

William Baynes, Esq. President, &c. &c. &c.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to report to you, that having received the Honourable Company's Despatches, yesterday morning we got under weigh, and passed through the Bogue, and are now off Macao on our passage to St. Helena.

I have, &c.

18th Nov. 1830. (signed) *E. M. Daniell.*

Redress of Grievances, &c.

(E.)—REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES, OR THE ACQUISITION OR ASSERTION OF PRIVILEGES.

(1.)—DEBTS DUE BY THE BANKRUPT MERCHANTS GNEWQUA AND PONQUA.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 24th October 1810.

Debts due by Gnewqua and Ponqua.

Par. 13. WE are sorry to inform your Honourable Court, that the plan we had resolved to adopt last season for the liquidation of the debts of the bankrupt Merchants Gnewqua and Ponqua, have been prevented by the most extraordinary interference of the Viceroy of Canton. The detail we shall have the honour to submit in due course to your Honourable Court, we regret to say will exhibit proceedings of duplicity and villany on the part of the Merchants and Mandarins, unprecedented even in China.

14. The Mandarins at present appear to have entirely changed their tone, and we have little doubt will terminate the business without further trouble, by directing the payment of the debts by the other Merchants, in the usual manner. We shall endeavour to obviate, by every means left in our power, the ruinous consequences that may result from this mode of adjustment, as well from the inability of the Junior Merchants to bear so heavy a burthen, as from the increased charges it may entail upon the foreign trade.

15. The arrangements we had made for the present season will, we hope, be allowed to proceed; but we fear the alarm occasioned to the Tea Merchants, by the proceedings of the Viceroy, will seriously affect both the quantity and quality of the Teas that were to have been delivered on account of Gnewqua.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 28th November 1810.

Par. 3. THE Chinese Government have directed the Teas contracted for on account of Gnewqua and Ponqua to be duly delivered, but no final settlement of these Merchants' affairs have taken place; it has latterly been proposed to pay, by instalments, in 10 years, a protracted period to which it is unreasonable to suppose we should accede.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 21st March 1811.

Par. 88. WITH respect to the future liquidation of the very serious amount of the debts of these bankrupt Merchants, both to the Honourable Company and to the other Foreign Creditors, it was generally understood at Canton, even early in the season, that the Viceroy had on his own authority laid down a plan of payment in 10 years, by equal annual instalments, and had transmitted it to Pekin, for the approval and ratification of his Imperial Majesty.

89. We were not however, officially informed of this fact, nor even personally assured of its truth until the 10th instant, when Pinqua communicated to us an Edict to this effect, addressed by the Nan-hai-Hien to the Hong Merchants for our information, and dated as early as the 6th ultimo, though no intimation had reached us of its existence before the day on which it was delivered to us.

90. Although the very reprehensible neglect of Pinqua in keeping us thus long in ignorance of so material a document, has afforded less time than we could have wished for the consideration and discussion of a subject of this importance, we deemed it our duty immediately to address to his Excellency the Viceroy, a remonstrance against an arrangement so far below the constant professions of the Government,

Government, and which, inadequate as it is, the Merchants, while heavily burthened by the increasing charges and exactions of the Mandarins, and labouring under great individual embarrassments, are well known to be without the means to execute.

Debts due by Gnewqua and Ponqua.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 10th January 1812.

Par. 229. THE plan which was first proposed to us by the Junior Merchants, was that our Committee should grant bills for the amount, (as was done in the case of Shykinqua's debts); and that on adjusting each Merchant's accounts with the Company at the close of the season, the amount of their shares should be severally deducted.

230. This arrangement, on account of the very different state of the Merchants and of our accounts with them, at this and at the former period, we could not altogether approve; but conceiving it desirable to ensure the adjustment of the business by some such agreement if possible, especially considering that a material proportion of the sum to be recovered is due to the Honourable Company, we offered to grant bills as proposed to the several creditors, upon condition of our receiving from Mowqua and Pinqua their bonds for the total amount (half from each), and the accounts to be adjusted with them at the end of the season.

231. The other Merchants having agreed to allow a sum of about 2*t.* 3*m.* upon each pecul of tea to be purchased from them by the Company, to be paid on their account when due into the Consoo Fund, as a security to Mowqua and Pinqua, the latter on our consenting to this allotment, made no further objection to our plan, and it has been carried into effect accordingly.

232. By closing with the Merchants upon these terms, it will be observed that we have not only secured the payment of the first instalment of the debt due to the Company from Gnewqua and Ponqua, but have likewise obtained a material accommodation, being thus enabled to liquidate a considerable part of the balance due at present by the Company to Mowqua and Pinqua, without any direct reduction in the amount of our specie.

(2.)—HEAVY BURTHENS ON THE TRADE.

Heavy Burthens on Trade.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 26th February 1810.

Par. 188. IMMEDIATELY on our arrival from Macao, the Viceroy required our attendance to receive the orders of the Emperor on permitting the renewal of trade, and we availed ourselves of this opportunity of representing to him in writing the heavy burdens to which the trade was exposed, and other general subjects of complaint. The result of this measure, we are sorry to say, will prove to your Honourable Court how vain it is to expect redress from the Mandarins of this province, as not the least notice has been taken of our complaint. His ignorance of the subject cannot be pleaded, as the representation was delivered to the Viceroy himself, and perused by him in the presence of our President.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 21st March 1811.

Par. 91. WE considered this a favourable opportunity of endeavouring to draw the Viceroy's attention to the general state of this trade, and to some recent circumstances to which much of the distrust of Foreigners, and of the unprecedented embarrassments of the Merchants, is to be attributed; and we finally requested that the whole might be faithfully reported to his Imperial Majesty, upon whose favour and protection as well as wise and just determination, when fully informed of these circumstances, we were willing to place the most perfect reliance.

92. We have not received any reply to this representation; indeed, at this advanced period of the business, and considering the present temper of the Government, we can scarcely entertain any serious hopes of the success of its immediate

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object; but in a general point of view, and as conducive to the prevention of further encroachments, we have seldom found our remonstrances against any injurious or oppressive acts of this Government wholly without effect; and we are persuaded that the task, however unpleasant and ungracious, is on such occasions an important and indispensable part of our duty.

121. We are just enabled, previous to the close of our proceedings, to record a translation of an Edict which has been issued by the Hoppo, in answer to our address of the 10th instant; but the near approach of the present Despatch has necessarily prevented us from taking particular notice of its extraordinary contents, until a future opportunity.

122. We may however remark, that, notwithstanding the unblushing denial of the most notorious facts, the professed indifference and contempt for our representations, and the generally ungracious and offensive tone which pervades the whole of the communication, we are still disposed, from the reports we have heard, and from the anxiety and uneasiness which are betrayed in the Edict itself, to augur favourably of the ultimate effect of the sensation which our address has produced, and to hope that it may yet prove some check to the ruinous and oppressive system of extortion to which the Hong Merchants are subjected.

(3.)—COMPANY'S SHIPS DETAINED IN CONSEQUENCE OF A CHINESE BEING KILLED BY AN ENGLISH SEAMAN.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 28th February 1810.

Detention of Company's Ships.

Death of a Chinese.

Par. 1. WE are sorry to have to inform your Honourable Court, that at the moment when the ships had completed their lading, and our papers nearly in readiness for despatch, we were informed that the Chinese Government would not permit the departure of the ships until it was discovered by whom a Chinese had been killed, as they asserted one had been, by an English seaman.

2. A charge of this nature had been made some time before, but so entirely unsupported by proof, indeed, in direct contradiction to the testimony of the shopkeeper living within a few yards of the spot where the murder was said to have been committed, that we did not think it would be persisted in, and this opinion was much strengthened by the Grand Chop of the Nottingham being issued after the charge was made.

3. It was now, however, recommenced, and from asserting that the officer belonged to one of the ships whose captains resided in the Imperial Hong, they fixed on the Royal Charlotte, but without apparently the smallest reason, as although some men belonging to that ship were in Canton on the day the man was wounded, they were locked up at dusk, and not permitted to go out till next morning.

4. The charge was attempted to be substantiated by the production of two witnesses, who it was asserted could recognize the features of the offenders; but on examination this did not appear the fact: they deposed, however, positively as to the dress of the Europeans who wounded the Chinese, which on inquiry proved entirely different from that worn by the people of the Royal Charlotte.

5. It was in vain that Captain Austin and ourselves represented in the strongest terms the total failure of the proof they brought forward to establish the charge, and the injustice of detaining the ships on such grounds. Every argument was disregarded, and the receipt of letters from Captain Austin refused. In this situation we were on the point of forwarding letters to the different officers of Government, fixing a day for the departure of the ships with or without permission, when a proposition was made by the Chinese, and ultimately said to be approved by the Viceroy, that an address should be forwarded by the Committee, stating the impossibility of discovering the offender, but promising, if the ships were allowed to depart, that inquiries should continue, and if the offender was discovered, that he should be punished according to the laws of England.

6. We could have no hesitation in complying with this proposition; indeed, considered it most favourable, not perhaps in immediate reference to the present business, in which we might fairly consider ourselves treated with injustice, but as establishing a most desirable precedent for the adjustment of disputes of this nature in future.

Detention of Company's Ships.

Death of a Chinese.

7. An address was prepared, drawn up and approved by the Chinese, and was finally delivered on the night of the 21st, and every hope afforded of the Grand Chops being issued in three or four days. All the Merchants have since continued to assert that the dispute might be considered as settled, and attributed the delay to the Viceroy having proceeded to the Bogue to negociate with one of the Ladrone Chiefs the terms of his return to his allegiance. With this we remained satisfied for some days, but the term of the seasonable despatch having nearly expired, we were called upon either to submit to the loss and inconvenience a further detention would occasion, or to risk the difficulties possible to arise from the despatch of the ships without the permission of the Chinese Government for their departure.

8. The proposition we have made being received, and from the delay tacitly consented to, we do not apprehend any serious consequences can result from the despatch of the ships, even under the circumstances, which further detention subjects the Honourable Company to, a loss it is impossible to calculate upon; on the 26th, therefore, all our papers being in readiness, we determined to deliver in the packets to the several Pursers, having previously desired the Merchants to make our intentions known to the Hoppo, who, however, did not seem disposed to expedite the delivery of the Chops, the packets were accordingly delivered, but not being provided with boats from the ships, intending to proceed, as usual, in a chop-boat, the departure of the Pursers was prevented.

9. On the morning of the 27th we transmitted a proposition to the Hoppo, stating our regret in being under the necessity of ordering away the ships without permission, and which nothing but the severe loss to which their detention would expose the Honourable Company could induce us to adopt. Letters of a similar nature were addressed also to the Viceroy and Fouyuen, and inclosed to the Hoppo, but he declined forwarding them, assuring the Merchants that an express had been sent to the Viceroy, and that an answer might be expected to-morrow. We are sorry, however, to say, that no port clearances have yet been issued; and we are consequently under the unpleasant necessity of sending away the ships without them.

10. As the ships will not be able to quit the Second Bar before to-morrow, or probably the next day, we hope the permission of the Chinese Government may yet be obtained before they pass the Bocca Tigris, which will obviate every difficulty.

11. We beg to refer your Honourable Court to our proceedings of the Seasons forwarded a number in the packet, per Perseverance, for a detail of the tedious discussions that have taken place on this interesting subject, which we cannot dismiss without requesting to express to your Honourable Court the high sense we entertain of the services that have been rendered by Captain Austin on the occasion, who returned to Canton immediately on hearing of the detention of the ships, and by his able advice and assistance has rendered the most essential aid.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 1st March 1810.

Par. 2. THE Chinese Government having consented to the departure of the ships, on condition that inquiries should be made, and the offender, if discovered, punished agreeably with the laws of England, we are desirous of fulfilling our part of the engagement, and at the same time are strongly of opinion that a communication on the subject from your Honourable Court, or His Majesty's Ministers, to the Chinese Government, showing that the inquiries promised have been made, might be attended with beneficial effects, we have therefore taken the liberty of requesting Captain Austin will direct such investigation among the shipping as he deems proper, and best calculated to promote the object in view. The result of his inquiries may be ascertained on his arrival in England.

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EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 31st January 1811.

Par. 297. WHEN however we made, in consequence, our demand for the several Grand Chops of these ships in the usual manner, we had the mortification to learn that the Government had resolved to withhold them, in consequence, it was said, of our having neither delivered up the man who killed a Chinese in the latter part of last season, nor satisfactorily accounted for our refusal to do so.

298. In explanation of the circumstances which led to this extraordinary communication, we must refer your Honourable Court to the particulars which we have had to record on our proceedings, both at Macao and at Canton, relative to this affair, since we had the honour to communicate what we conceived to be equivalent to its final adjustment, in our Despatch at the close of the preceding season.

299. After the reference then made of the matter in discussion to England, and the consequent departure of the ships with the permission of the Chinese Government, the renewal of the subject at present, and the demand of the surrender of the individual who had killed the Chinese last year, on the pretext that his name is now known to be "William," or something in sound resembling it, though in fact he has not even been proved to be an Englishman, and at all events is certainly absent, and therefore out of our control, is no less unjust than absurd and extravagant.

300. On the whole, we confidently trust your Honourable Court will consider our address of explanation to the Viceroy, under date the 28th ult. to convey, in its full extent, that just respect and deference which this Government is entitled to receive from us, and that you will accordingly approve of our determination steadily to refuse to make answer in the terms dictated by the Government, which are both false in fact and dangerous in principle, and further, disgraceful, by the implication of promises never intended or expected to be performed.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 10th January 1812.

Par. 11. WE are concerned to find, that the conduct of the late Committee, in bringing to an adjustment the very anxious and embarrassing affair here adverted to, have not been considered upon the whole to merit the Honourable Court's approbation; but we trust that the few remarks we have to offer in further explanation of the Committee's proceedings, will prevent their continuing to appear to the Honourable Court thus censurable.

12. In the observations we have had the honour to submit to the Honourable Court, in the concluding paragraphs of our public letter of the 31st January 1811, we endeavoured to explain, and we trust satisfactorily, the very material fact, that whenever a murderer is demanded by the Chinese Government, a consequent selection and surrender of any individual into their hands, is completely equivalent in effect to a provisional sentence of death. The individual may be afterwards pardoned, or not, according to circumstances; but we think there can be no question, that our act in such cases is held by the Chinese Government as perfectly conclusive, both in respect to the law and the fact; or, in other words, as competent evidence both of the identity of the offender, and his offence having amounted to murder.

13. The very embarrassing predicament in which we are thus liable to be placed, the Honourable Court cannot be altogether unacquainted with, and this we may even infer from the paragraphs under reply, in which we are expressly instructed, that it would not be proper to deliver up an individual, who had killed a Chinese, into the hands of the Government, unless such individual had actually committed murder.

14. It is obvious that, with this limitation to the extent, your compliance with the demands of the Chinese Government, which we have always thought necessary, and which has now received the Honourable Court's sanction, any inquiry which should tend to convict an individual of the fact of killing a Chinese, without at the same time attaching to him the guilt of murder, and that in the clearest and most undeniable manner, would not only be useless, but add, in the most serious degree, to our embarrassments.

15. In

Detention of Company's Ships.

Death of a Chinese.

15. In the case in question, it appeared manifest from the commencement, that no inquiry which we could institute could attain to such a certainty of the guilt of any individual, as would have warranted us in selecting him, in fact, for execution. But such an inquiry, though fruitless in other respects, would necessarily have had the effect of rendering resistance to the demands of the Chinese Government more difficult, as it would have been unavoidably notorious, and would have implied an admission on our part, that the alleged guilt lay between a few persons only, and those the seamen of the Honourable Company's ship Cumberland.

16. It is also to be observed, that the information which excited suspicions in that quarter was not communicated to the President, until after the public examination of the Chinese witnesses had commenced, and in which considerable progress had been made in exposing the fallacy and incompetency of their testimony. We cannot suppose it would be wished that the Committee should have receded from the ground they had just gained, and thereby have exposed themselves so unprofitably to the charge of inconsistency in such a stage of the business.

17. By referring, on the contrary, the further investigation of the affair wholly to Captain Austin, and to a period in which the Chinese could no longer take any share in it, this dilemma was avoided; and it was also hoped, that the ends of justice would have been equally satisfied, as it was certainly not foreseen that the law of England would not even allow the men to be put on their trial.

18. The advantageous nature of the proposal which the Chinese were induced to make in consequence of a system of conduct thus adopted, is indeed remarked by the Honourable Court, and we cannot but felicitate ourselves upon the satisfactory adjustment that followed. What would have been the consequence of a line of proceeding, which would have given them a pretext for supposing that the culprit had really been discovered, it is impossible to say; but we cannot avoid expressing our full persuasion, that under any circumstances whatever, an adjustment effected by the delivery of an individual into the hands of the Chinese Government, would have been in its general consequences infinitely disastrous and unfortunate.

19. The case is perhaps different where the circumstances are so clear and unquestionable, and the Government itself fixes upon and demands the criminal; but under the circumstances we have stated, namely, a mere demand for a murderer to be given up, we cannot but submit to the judgment of your Honourable Committee, whether, without a violation of the laws of our own country, we can, in any shape, comply therewith. Whether, in short, we are warranted in exercising those judicial functions, which the selection and surrender of an individual, in compliance with such a vague demand, would seem to imply.

20. We trust your Honourable Committee will not deem our scruples on this occasion excessive; an occasion in which the life or death of an individual, and the honour or dishonour of our national character might be at stake; and we trust also, that under this explanation it will appear to your Honourable Court, that the line of conduct adopted was, considering the exigencies of the case, the only one consistent with the character and interests of our honourable employers, and of the British nation; and we beg to add in conclusion, that we feel assured, that had your late Committee been thoroughly satisfied upon authentic grounds of the facts of which a knowledge is imputed to them, such facts would undoubtedly have been communicated to our honourable employers in their public or secret dispatches.

21. After an attentive perusal of these instructions, and also of the letter of which a copy is transmitted for our inspection, and the fullest consideration of every circumstance connected with it, we have conceived ourselves entitled to conclude, that in the present instance the sole object in view in making such a communication, is to satisfy the Chinese Government respecting the circumstances of the death of the native supposed to have been killed by an English seaman, and respecting the measures taken in England, in consequence of the charge to that effect.

22. The letter addressed to the Viceroy upon this delicate subject is, doubtless, penned with all imaginable caution and propriety; yet it was impossible at such a distance of time and place to be certain of anticipating the views and disposition of the Government.

23. We confess, therefore, that since the affair is now apparently at rest, we not only feel great unwillingness to do anything that might tend to revive it; but we feel also some apprehensions of the improper advantage that might be taken,

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or evil purpose facilitated, even by the mere admission made in the letter, that the three of the seamen of the Cumberland were found liable to suspicion; especially as that admission is unaccompanied by any decisive report upon their guilt or innocence.

24. The peculiar circumstances of the case rendered it no doubt difficult, we may say impossible, to give detailed explanations in writing, which, without a violation of truth, would be at all likely to satisfy the extravagant claims of the Chinese Government.

25. We conceive, therefore, that such explanations as may be necessary had better, if possible, be given verbally, and in the most general terms; and we think that the latter, if claimed at any time by the Chinese, may be said to have been intended only for the former Viceroy, under whose Government the accident happened, and withheld on that account.

(4.)—COMPANY'S SHIPS DETAINED, IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE HONG MERCHANTS REFUSING TO SATISFY EXTORTIONATE DEMANDS OF THE HOPPO.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 31st January 1811.

Detention of Company's Ships.

Extortions of the Hoppo.

Par. 288. THE various delays which protracted the period of the present Despatch considerably beyond the date which we ventured to anticipate as the latest, in our short address to your Honourable Court of the 10th ultimo, require us to enter in this place into some explanation of their causes, more especially as the question how far the evil is capable of remedy, is certainly deserving of your Honourable Court's serious consideration.

289. In the first place we have to observe, that instead of the regular and uniform progress in the lading our ships to which we have formerly been accustomed, we have frequently experienced interruptions in respect to particular ships, and these at one time, without any reason assigned, amounted in fact to an actual stoppage of the whole of the Honourable Company's trade.

290. On remonstrating with the merchants against this unwarrantable and vexatious treatment, they were unanimous in acknowledging that the detention of our ships was a measure of the Chinese Government, not directed against us, but against themselves, in consequence of the absolute inability of most of them, and the actual refusal of all, to satisfy the extortionate and continually increasing demands of the Hoppo, for the purchase of various articles of clock-work and mechanism imported on our ships, and usually denominated "*Sing Songs*," and which, it seems, are now become the established vehicle of corruption between that officer and his superiors of the capital.

291. It was further stated to us, that being thus invariably called upon by the Hoppo to purchase these articles for his use at any price, and to an enormous amount, their importation into China was become a grievance to the Merchants generally, of the most serious nature; in consequence of which, Puikua, our Senior Merchant, added, that he had now earnestly to request in his own name, and in that of the others, that we would represent this circumstance in our next despatches to our honourable employers, and suggest the adoption of some effectual measures for preventing the future shipment of articles of this description for China, in any of the vessels in the service of the Honourable Company.

295. Waving, however, the further discussion of these questions, we informed the Merchants, in conclusion, that to a measure so prejudicial to the interests of the Honourable Company, as this interruption to the lading of our ships, no differences which might exist between the Hoppo and the Merchants, much less those of the disgraceful nature they had related, would induce us to submit; and that we should accordingly make a formal appeal on the subject to the Government, unless the trade was very shortly allowed again to proceed.

296. Such an appeal, however, did not prove necessary, as the trade, through some compromise, probably between the Hoppo and Merchants, was re-opened almost immediately after; and in a few days, the lading of all the ships intended to be included in the present despatch, completed.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 10th February 1811.

Detention of Company's Ships.

Extortions of the Hoppo.

Par. 8. OUR proceedings transmitted by this Despatch, will convey to your Honourable Court information up to the 31st ultimo, of the several circumstances connected with the vexatious and unwarrantable detention of the ships of the present fleet have been subjected by the Chinese Government.

9. Having been unsuccessful in our subsequent endeavours to prevail upon the Merchants to deliver to the Viceroy and Hoppo our written remonstrance against the unjust procedure, we found ourselves under the necessity of having recourse to the less regular and usual mode of effecting the object in view, by means of a deputation to the city gates.

10. This service was successfully executed by Mr. Parry and Captain Lindsay, who proceeded to the gate of the city at our request on the 2d instant, accompanied by a party of the gentlemen of the Factory and the Commanders and Officers of the Honourable Company's ships. The party finding no material obstruction on entering, were enabled to advance as far as the Hoppo's Palace, where Mr. Parry and Captain Lindsay had the satisfaction of presenting our address personally to his Excellency, as is more particularly stated in Mr. Parry's Report, a copy of which we have the honour to enclose.

Par. 11. The address was returned to us by the Merchants the same evening, without any specific promise of a compliance with our request; but the tenor of our application and the public manner in which it had been presented had evidently produced a considerable sensation, as it was immediately followed by an offer to receive from us explanations in reply to the demand of the surrender of the murderer of the Chinese of the last season, considerably less objectionable than any proposed at a former period.

12. Another letter was accordingly addressed to the Viceroy and the Hoppo, in substance indeed the same as our proposed address of the 28th of December, long since rejected; but yet in terms, which the Merchants now assured us, would be considered sufficiently satisfactory.

13. As a day or two were again suffered to elapse, and difficulties still alleged to exist against the delivery of the Grand Chops, it was at length intimated to the Merchants, for the information of the Mandarins, that however desirous we were to pay every due deference to the regulations of the Chinese Government, our submission to a detention of our ships so perfectly unjustifiable, and so injurious to the interests of our employers, could not continue much longer, and that they must accordingly be prepared for the event of our despatching the fleet, even without the usual permission, should the government determine to reduce us to that unpleasant alternative.

14. Whether conscious of the impracticability of preventing the despatch of our ships, if seriously determined upon, is the circumstance which has given to the above intimation the effect intended, or whether the Merchants have been ultimately obliged to purchase the consent of the officers of government by a submission to further extortion, we are unable to pronounce; but it is certain, that the first positive assurance that the Grand Chops would be issued, was to all appearance the immediate consequence of the communication in question.

15. Having this day received the Grand Chops of the several ships, agreeably to the above assurances, we have much satisfaction in being enabled to announce the same to your Honourable Court, and shall have the pleasure of transmitting forthwith our final Despatches to the respective commanders.

(5.)—TRADE OF THE SEASON DELAYED IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE VICEROY DIRECTING THAT MR. ROBERTS, ONE OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF SUPRACARGOES, SHOULD LEAVE CANTON.

Secret Department.

Delay of Trade.

Mr. Roberts.

EXTRACT LETTER from J. F. Elphinstone, Esq., to the Honourable the Chairman of the East India Company, dated Canton, 23d December 1813.

Par. 2. IN consequence of having been engaged in a discussion with the Chinese Government, our commercial proceedings were suspended till about the 10th instant,

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as the Select Committee did not consider it to be expedient to land any of the Honourable Company's cargoes till the point in question was adjusted.

3. The discussion arose from a report that the former Viceroy Pé made to Pekin at the close of the year 1811, when stating to his Imperial Majesty the failure of Gnewqua's and Ponqua's Hongs, and proposing the punishment of Ashing.

4. On the arrival of Mr. Browne, and hearing of the intended return of Mr. Roberts to Europe, the Viceroy Pé appears to have obtained a statement from the Merchants that the conduct of Mr. Roberts in Gnewqua's and Ponqua's affairs, together with his opposition to the Chinese Government, had been displeasing to the authorities in England, and that he had been removed accordingly. Seizing on this circumstance to give a colour to his most unjust proceedings towards Gnewqua, Ponqua and Ashing, when making his report to Pekin of their alleged delinquency, and proposing their being banished, the Viceroy Pé at the same time recommended that Mr. Roberts, as having also violated the laws and regulations, should not be permitted to return to China.

5. No notice whatsoever was taken of these prohibitions while the former Hoppo remained in Canton, neither did it occur to the Viceroy to make the least objection to Mr. Roberts coming to Canton, when application was made for that purpose last season; and it appears the objections now started by the Viceroy proceeded from the suggestions of some of the inferior persons connected with his office, and the Viceroy, not aware at the time of the consequences, acquiesced in the publishing an official Edict, requiring Mr. Roberts to leave China.

6. The conduct and disposition of the Hoppo, on his first arrival in Canton, was so decidedly hostile to Europeans, that the parties suggesting the renewal of the question to the Viceroy, were assured their measures would not be opposed by the Hoppo, as he was impressed with the belief that the more violent and arbitrary he was towards Europeans and the Merchants, the better was his chance of profiting by extortion.

7. This attempt at interference on the part of the Chinese Government, involving essentially the interests of the Honourable Company, as it amounted in fact to placing their servants under the control of the Chinese, (the only illegal act alleged against Mr. Roberts was that of having advanced money on contracts), the Committee considered was to be resisted, and in the most decided manner in their power, and consequently all commercial intercourse was declined until the Viceroy should officially rescind and withdraw his prohibitions respecting Mr. Roberts, and fully aware that nothing is to be expected from the justice of the Chinese officers, we could only hope to establish our point by firmness and perseverance.

8. By renewing this subject, the Viceroy soon found himself placed in rather an embarrassing situation: for in complying with our demands or doing what justice required, was reflecting on the conduct of his predecessor Pé, who he did not wish to offend. After a considerable delay, and resorting to various expedients to establish his point, or rather to preserve appearances, by repeating his Edicts and Orders for Mr. Roberts to leave China, the Viceroy finding that the Committee were determined to decline all commerce till the prohibitions and objections were officially rescinded and withdrawn, at length gave way, and an official document was delivered to the effect required, not altogether satisfactory in European estimation, but considered by the Chinese as being amply sufficient, and entirely disavowing all right to interfere; and we hope it will prove so by preventing the recurrence of any similar attempt on the part of the Government in future.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated the 22d February 1814.

Par. 134. YOUR Honourable Court has already been informed of the discussion in which we were engaged with the Government from the latter end of September, and which was finally arranged about the 10th December.

Consultations,

135. The objections made by the Chinese to Mr. Roberts's discharging the duties of the situation to which he was appointed by your Honourable Court are fully recorded. We consider it necessary, for the preservation of the interests of our employers, most decidedly to resist an interference of this nature on the part of the Canton Government, which could not, without the greatest danger to the interests of the Honourable Company, be permitted to be exercised.

136. On

136. On the receipt of the Viceroy's Edict we determined to adopt such measures as we hoped would prove effectual in inducing the Canton Government to withdraw their objections.

Delay of Trade.

137. The cargoes belonging to the Honourable Company were not permitted to be landed from the ships, and an early opportunity was taken to make it known that, until the Viceroy's Edict was officially rescinded, we would persevere in our measure of declining all commercial intercourse.

Mr. Roberts.

138. The various expedients resorted to by the officers of government in order to induce us to relinquish our objections and concede the point, are fully detailed on our proceedings. From these it will be seen that the Viceroy was finally induced to withdraw his prohibitions, and officially rescind the orders he had given relative to Mr. Roberts.

139. Although the document published by the Viceroy on this occasion was not altogether satisfactory, yet it was considered fully as much as we could expect, unless perhaps a much longer interruption had been persisted in; and under the full persuasion, however unsatisfactory the expressions in the official documents might be, that we had, in fact, gained what we had proposed, namely, that of having convinced the Chinese, be the consequences what they might, so improper an interference would never be permitted; and we consider it inexpedient to decline any longer unloading the ships, since which time our business has proceeded without any material interruption.

EXTRACT LETTER from the Select Committee at Canton to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors, dated 22d February 1814.

September 25.

Par. 25. UNDER this date is recorded a letter from Goqua, which relates to the subject which occasioned a discussion with the Chinese Government.

October 28.
Nov. 2, 5, 8, 13.

26. In our proceedings in this department under the several dates in the margin, as also in our public department, are fully detailed the measures we pursued throughout the discussion, in which it will be seen that our refusing to unload the ships until the Viceroy should officially rescind the objections he had made to Mr. Roberts's holding the situation to which he had been appointed, finally succeeded in obtaining an official document, not altogether satisfactory, although we may hope it will be sufficient to prevent any attempt of a similar nature at a future period.

27. By the publication of the Viceroy's Edict of the 2d of December, we were happily relieved from the necessity of taking into consideration the adoption of the measure proposed in Mr. Elphinstone's Minute, of withdrawing the Honourable Company's ships, for the purpose of more effectually representing what we had to complain of to the Government of Pekin. Carrying on an extensive commerce, sufficient to excite the rapacity of the officers of government, protected by no laws, but, on the contrary, such regulations as are made, so vague and undefined as to admit of any interference or interpretation that a corrupt and despotic government may be disposed to give them, our only hope of preventing the recurrence of these attacks is by a firm and decided resistance.

28. Although we cannot but regret the delay which was occasioned, we must observe, it appears to have prevented our being subject to many interferences we might otherwise have been exposed to from the Hoppo. The very violent and arbitrary manner in which he commenced the functions of his office was sufficient to show what would have been his conduct had he not been checked. From the time of our commencing unloading the ships no interference or interruption worthy of remark has been experienced.

(6.)—FIRST LIEUTENANT OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP INDEFATIGABLE, ATTACKED WHILE ON SHORE, AND SEVERELY ILL-TREATED BY THE CHINESE.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 10th January 1812.

Ill treatment of the First Lieutenant of the Indefatigable.

Par. 298. THE particulars will be noticed by your Honourable Court on our proceedings of this season, of an appeal which we had occasion to make to the justice of the Chinese Government, in concurrence with Captain Briggs of His

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Majesty's Ship Clorinde, in consequence of the First Lieutenant of the Indefatigable having been attacked and severely ill-treated, and also plundered of a gun by the Chinese on shore, near the anchorage at Chunpee.

299. It is satisfactory to be enabled to add, that in this instance, not only very great readiness was shown by the officers of Government to attend to our complaint, but complete redress actually obtained, the principal offender having been secured and brought to Canton, and the gun recovered and restored to the Captain of His Majesty's Ship Indefatigable.

(7.)—RESPECTING THE EMBARRASSED CIRCUMSTANCES OF SOME OF THE HONG MERCHANTS.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 2d March 1813.

Embarrassments of the Hong Merchants.

Par. 2. WE have noticed in this department the proceedings of the European creditors of the Hongs of Conseequa, Exchin, Manhop, Poonequa and Goqua, and the arrangements which they have made for the recovery of their debts; having for the chief object the equalizing the claims on these Merchants with respect to the interest, and from such funds as may arise to the Merchants in the course of their commercial transactions, an equal distribution will be made among the claimants.

3. This arrangement, which is equitable as far as the parties are concerned, will have the effect of relieving the Merchants from the pressing importunities of any of their European creditors. The alternative which was left at the option of the European creditors, was an application to the Chinese Government for the payment of their debts, which would have occasioned the bankruptcy of the Hongs, and much inconvenience and delay to the Honourable Company's affairs would probably have arisen during the present season. The funds from whence these debts would be charged must be raised by the imposition of further duties on European Commerce. From the state of the commercial relations of other nations with China at present, the tax must have fallen heavily on the Company's trade, under these circumstances we consider the arrangement to be by most the beneficial for the Honourable Company's affairs which could have been adopted, and consequently fully deserving every assistance which we may have it in our power to afford.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 31st March 1813.

Par. 10. WE noticed in our proceedings in this department a message which the Hoppo had sent through Pinqua, relative to the re-establishment of Chunqua's Hong, in the Honourable Company's employment On a visit which his Excellency lately paid at the Factory, he again introduced the subject, and requested that Chunqua might be readmitted; not altogether approving of this interference, it was merely observed in reply, that the Committee had not at that time determined on these arrangements, but when concluded the result would be communicated to his Excellency.

11. In the present circumstances of the trade, together with the former conduct of Chunqua, we perhaps had no great cause to wish for a renewal of intercourse; at the same time, from the anxiety which Chunqua has evinced to be again admitted to the Company's business, it may be fairly presumed that he will be extremely cautious of taking any measures which may deserve the reprehension of the Committee, and it is to be hoped that his future conduct will be such as to give no cause to regret our having acceded to his request; the proposition of business which we have allotted to Chunqua is about two shares.

12. With the exception of Pinqua, to whom we have appropriated four shares, and of Mowqua, who has three, the proportions of the business allotted to the other Merchants are the same as before. The introduction of Chunqua is provided for by the addition of two shares to the former number of 20.

13. The situation, however, of many of the Hong Merchants is such (being considerably indebted to Europeans) that we do not consider it to be advisable to adhere to a strict distribution of the business in the shares as here specified.

Embarrassments of the Hong Merchants.

14. The profits arising from the trade which these Merchants may be enabled to carry on with Europeans, is the source from whence their debts are to be liquidated, (unless application is made to the Government, when their debts will be discharged by the body of the Hong Merchants from funds arising from the imposition of further duties on the foreign trade,) consequently it becomes desirable to throw as large a proportion of business into the hands of the Merchants thus situated, as may be done consistent with the interests of the Honourable Company, and without detriment to the investment.

15. The manner in which the contracts are now made, by the Tea Merchants communicating to us their arrangements with the Hong Merchants, for whom we in fact become responsible, the necessary advances on the contracts being paid to the Tea Merchants from our treasury; and on the teas being weighed and received, the long ells for the amount remaining due being delivered at once from the Factory, the confidence of the Tea Merchant and the credit of the Hong Merchant (as far as relates to the transaction) is completely established; and there appears no cause to apprehend that the teas will not prove to be equally good with those delivered by other Merchants. We have considered it therefore expedient to limit the division of the business in the shares specified, to the amount of the teas actually required by the estimate, and to divide the further provision of Congo which it is advisable to contract for, among the Merchants, Conseequa, Exchin, Manhop, Poonequa, and Goqua.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 22d February 1814.

Par. 167. WE have at various times had the honour to detail to your Honourable Court the situation of the majority of the Hong Merchants; their situation at the close of 1806–7 was that of complete insolvency.

168. In the seasons immediately following, their true situation became at first suspected, and then fully ascertained, and on their credit failing them entirely, they became exposed to all the harassing importunities and distress which was to be expected would take place from their numerous creditors.

169. On the loss of their credit their commercial transactions became daily more embarrassed; that part of the Honourable Company's investment which those Merchants had to provide became injured in quality, and was obtained with difficulty; the sums required for duties, and which must be paid, were not forthcoming, and the ruin of five Hongs, viz. Conseequa, Exchin, Manhop, Poonequa, and Goqua appeared inevitable.

170. It then becomes a question for the consideration of the Committee, whether it was expedient for the interest of the Company and the trade generally that these Merchants should be allowed to fail, or by stepping forward to their assistance, exertions should be made to uphold the Hongs, and that such profits as might arise from their commercial transactions should be applied to the liquidation of their debts. By the failure of so many Hongs, debts due to the Honourable Company and individuals, amounting in the aggregate to nearly four millions, would have remained to be adjusted, such part as the Government might have thought proper to acknowledge would have been ordered to have been paid by the remaining Merchants, probably in ten years; who, in their turn, would have laid additional taxes on the foreign trade to meet the annual instalment. The loss, together with the serious injury which must have been entailed on the Company's and foreign trade was obvious; and the Committee were of opinion that it was for the advantage of the interests more particularly committed to their charge, as well as to the general interests of all parties concerned, that the Hongs should continue.

171. In coming to this decision, the Committee could not but be aware of the many difficulties to be encountered, the trouble and responsibility which they were imposing on themselves to carry on trade with Merchants so situated, there remained but a choice of evils, and it was their duty to adopt what appeared least likely to injure the interests committed to their charge.

172. Considerable difficulty was experienced at first in avoiding the payment

ment of fees and donations to the officers of Government; these difficulties were immediately lessened by the mild and moderate conduct of the late Hoppo Te-ta Zin.

173. On the adopting the resolution to support the Merchants, the Committee considered it their duty to resist the application of the private creditors to be allowed a participation at once in any advantages that might arise from their transactions with the Merchants, conceiving that the Company had full right to require that the profits arising from their transactions with these Merchants, should, in the first instance, be solely appropriated to the liquidation of their claims. On their amount being cleared off, it would remain for the Committee to afford any assistance in their power to private individuals. It may be here proper to observe, that the conduct of the private creditors throughout merits commendation. No measures were proposed to be adopted without a previous reference, to know how far such measures might be approved by the Committee.

174. From the situation of the Merchants it must be evident to your Honourable Court, that they possessed no resources within themselves from whence their balances could be paid off, and that the liquidation of their several debts to the Company could only be the work of several seasons. The payment of duties, the advance on contracts, and all other charges have been made from our treasury; and having, as your Honourable Court are desirous should be done, reduced their respective accounts with the Company, we are unable to concur in the remark of the 52d paragraph, under reply, that the Merchants are in a much worse situation than they were in 1809–10. On the contrary, we are disposed to think their circumstances are much improved, their embarrassed situation being publicly known, and they themselves are now fully aware that their re-establishment depends entirely on their good conduct and economy; and in addition to this, as far as the Company's investment is considered, we have established such an intercourse and understanding with the Tea Merchants as greatly advances the credit of the Junior Merchants of the Hong, and will prove of essential benefit in our future transactions.

175. With respect to the advances made on contracts, we believe that they do not exceed what was customary in former periods. Interest equal to one per cent. per month is charged on the sums so advanced, and consequently no loss can be said to arise.

176. We have been under the necessity of making, in the present season, advances on the payment of duties, to prevent the failure of the Hong of Fatqua. Our dealings with that Merchant are not extensive, but we hope by care and attention in his business, it will not be long before he clears his debt to the Honourable Company.

177. Our utmost exertions are used to limit the amount of our advances to the Merchants: their indispensable demands must be complied with; but on the economy with which their affairs are transacted depends chiefly the success of the present plan adopted for the payment of their debts.

178. We are unwilling to suppose that Goqua would have readily or on light grounds resorted to this measure, but at the same time, a certain pressure, arising from inability to pay his duties, which would endanger the Hong, might have proved too great to resist the temptation of appropriating funds passing through his hands, and we trust your Honourable Court will deem this a sufficient reason for the apprehensions expressed, and the advance made.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 16th January 1815.

Par. 12. IT is unnecessary for us to repeat the probable consequences of so many of the Merchants becoming bankrupts, and the heavy additional taxation that would fall on the trade, to enable these debts to be discharged. Our anxious endeavours have been constantly employed to give full effect to the arrangement.

13. We have met with difficulties proceeding, as we believe, from the jealousy of the Senior Merchants, and their desire to engross the European trade, these difficulties have been increased by a want of energy and conduct on the part of those Merchants whose Hongs we are endeavouring to sustain. We have only

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to rely on our own firmness and determination in resisting any attempt that may be made, and when the Senior Merchants are convinced that we are resolved to persevere in the arrangement, we may hope to be allowed to carry it on without molestation.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 16th January 1815.

Par. 68. WE have on other occasions so fully stated to your Honourable Court the many and serious consequences to the Trade that must inevitably ensue from the failure of so many of the Hongs so deeply indebted, and whose debts would fall on the European trade. We will confine ourselves at present to the remark that, under existing circumstances, we consider the advances made to enable the Merchants to discharge their duties to Government, and also the requisite advances to defray the disbursements of their respective Hongs, to be as necessary and expedient as any payments made to the Tea Merchants and others, in return for goods actually delivered; at the same time we had a right to expect, that the officers of the Canton Government would consider the advances made in a liberal point of view, and refrain from unjust practices, especially when these more particularly affected us; but from the officers of the Chinese Government we know, from experience, neither rectitude of conduct, or liberality of sentiment can be expected; when an officer enters on his situation, his attention is not excited to a due and just performance of its duties, but to the profits that may accrue from it.

69. The officer whose conduct has called forth the remark made by your Honourable Court, was notwithstanding a mild and moderate man compared with his predecessors; and, although we experienced several vexatious interruptions, there was at all times a great readiness shown by the Hoppo Le to receive, discuss and adjust any complaints we might have occasion to carry before him, and, on the whole, we should be well pleased to see the office filled by him again.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 11th March 1815.

Par. 12. WE are wholly unable at the present moment to hazard an opinion as to what may be the Viceroy's course of proceedings in regard to the Hongs of the Junior Merchants; we cannot but indulge a hope, that the more accurate information that we suppose he must have obtained, together with the obvious policy of permitting the Junior Merchants to continue, will operate on the decision of the Viceroy, in permitting their Hongs to continue as before.

13. The question, as it relates to Sir George Staunton, we understand is considered to be completely set at rest, by the clear and strong statement made by the Merchants; the Viceroy, it is said, most fully concurred in the tenor of the document, and that it was immediately transmitted to Pekin; we cannot but hope that the Viceroy's views on the other points connected with the foreign trade have undergone a favourable change.

14. We should greatly regret giving your Honourable Committee grounds for believing that the situation of the Honourable Company's affairs and interest in China were in a more favourable state than is really the case; we have considered it necessary therefore, to take the earliest opportunity of laying every document before your Honourable Committee, from whence it will be seen, the attempts that have been made to overturn the present system of the trade, the change that was proposed to be established, the measures we have pursued in the hope of defeating the attempt, and the danger that still threatens the Honourable Company's interest, and the trade generally at Canton.

15. The measure of suspending the commercial intercourse (particularly should it be necessary for any length of time) is attended with such injurious effects, that nothing but the conviction that no other measure is left for our adoption, in order to obtain forbearance on the part of the Chinese Government, can justify our resorting to it, and for the efficacy of the measure we depend only on the conse-

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quences that may be supposed will arise to the Chinese Government from so extensive a trade being suddenly interrupted.

16. Your Honourable Committee will not fail to appreciate the difficulties experienced in conducting so extensive a trade, exciting the views and interests, and exposed to the intrigues of designing persons, protected by no laws or regulations, while the superior officers of the provincial government are leagued with or assisting the parties acting against us. To resist such a combination the Committee alone can scarcely be expected to prove equal, and it will be for your Honourable Committee to determine on the measures best calculated to support and preserve the Honourable Company's interests in China.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 12th March 1815.

Par. 38. WE have lately been informed by Conseequa and the Junior Merchants that they are under considerable apprehensions, in consequence of Edicts which have been received from the Emperor and the Viceroy, relative to the foreign trade, and to their Hongs in particular. They stated that the Merchants indebted to foreigners are ordered to be removed.

39. We requested that the documents might be put into our possession, which request the Merchants have declined compliance with, in consequence, as they have privately assured us, of the advice of the Hoppo.

40. By a second Imperial Edict, relative to the foreign trade, we understand that the removing of such Merchants as are indebted to foreigners is again mentioned, and we understand that the Emperor positively directs Puankhequa to resume the situation of First Merchant.

41. A measure so unjust, and so manifestly injurious to the interests of the foreign trade at Canton, as breaking the Merchants who are indebted to foreigners, and whose heavy debts must necessarily fall on the trade in the shape of duties, we consider it to be our bounden duty to oppose in every way in our power.

42. From the experience we have had of the conduct of the Government and the Merchants, during the last season and the present, whether proceeding from machinations of some among the Merchants, added to the want of exertion in others, or the hostile and unfriendly disposition of the superior officers of the Canton government, it appears probable that the return of Puankhequa may be attended with beneficial effects, as we may hope he will have the power of repressing any evil designs, while his known firmness will enable him to explain affairs more freely to the officers of Government.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 9th April 1815.

Par. 7. WE have the pleasure to acquaint your Honourable Court, Puankhequa has resumed the situation of First Merchant, in obedience to the Imperial Decree.

8. On our Consultations, under date the 2d instant, your Honourable Court will find detailed the particulars of an interview we had with Puankhequa and the other Merchants on that day, relative to the affairs of the Hongs that are indebted to Europeans.

9. We have already acquainted your Honourable Court with the serious consequences which we apprehended would attend the removal of the Junior Merchants, and that we should consider it our bounden duty to resist such a measure on the part of the officers of Government by every means in our power.

10. We have the satisfaction to state, that we have since been informed by Pinqua, that the Hoppo has expressed himself to be fully aware of the embarrassment that would arise to the general trade of Canton, should the measures proposed be carried into effect, and that he has promised to use his utmost endeavours to obtain the Viceroy's concurrence to the support of the Junior Hongs, on the return of that officer from the tour of inspection in which he is at present engaged.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 9th April 1815.

Embarrassments of the Hong Merchants.

Par. 4. ON the 4th instant we had the satisfaction to hear through Pinqua, that the Hoppo had given him the strongest assurances of his intentions to support the Junior Merchants, as far as was in his power, and that he should spare no entreaties or arguments in inducing the Viceroy to concur. He proposed to avail himself of an early occasion after the Viceroy's return to Canton, as he is at present absent on a tour of inspection.

5. The assurances of the Hoppo, so strongly and unequivocally expressed, have had the effect of removing, in great measure, the doubts that the various reports respecting the intentions of the Government towards the Junior Merchants had excited; and we were in consequence enabled to assist the Junior Merchants in their arrangements with their European creditors, by granting bills on the Honourable Court for the amount of the balances due to them, together with a further sum beyond the amount which we were actually indebted; and in consideration of all circumstances our bills were drawn at the rate of 5 *s.* 6 *d.* per dollar, payable in 12 months.

6. The communication made by Pinqua will further enable us to proceed with the necessary arrangements for providing the investment of the ensuing season; and as the period of making the advances on the Twankays is arrived, our contracts with the Merchants will be made immediately after the sailing of the Scaleby Castle.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 30th April 1815.

Par. 4. IN compliance with the orders of this Government, Puan-khe-qua has taken charge of his Hong, having effected, through superior address with the Viceroy and others of the officers of Government, the complete exclusion of his brothers and other branches of his family, who before participated in the profits of the Hong.

5. In consideration of Puan-khe-qua's former situation, we proposed in our division of the business to allot to him the proportion annually appropriated to the First Merchant, but on our intentions being communicated, Puan-khe-qua declined doing business to this extent, on the plea of want of capital (unless we would assist him with advances), and further, that we must stipulate to pay up the amount of his teas at the close of the season.

6. We must observe, that Puan-khe-qua advanced another argument, which, could it be relied on, does him more credit, which was, that he was unwilling to interfere with our arrangements respecting the Junior Merchants, as by the extent of their dealings with us their circumstances and credit were chiefly to be restored.

7. Under the unusual stipulation of his account being paid off at the close of the season, and which we cannot possibly suppose the real state of his capital to warrant, together with the obvious policy of assisting the Junior Merchants, the wishes expressed by Puan-khe-qua to engage in business with us on a more limited scale than we had proposed, were readily acceded to.

8. The conduct of Chunqua, in the opinion of the Committee, was such as to merit the severest marks of their displeasure; and an entire discontinuance of all commercial transactions between the Company and Chunqua would have been the proper return for his unjustifiable proceedings towards us. On the return of Puan-khe-qua, however, we did not feel altogether confident as to the line of conduct he might think it proper to pursue; and as Chunqua appeared to us to promise the best, if not the only check on Puan-khe-qua, should he propose to embarrass the trade with restrictions, we deemed it rather politic to continue our business with Chunqua. Accordingly we made contracts with him to the same extent as in this season.

9. After the experience we have had of Chunqua's conduct, it is apparent that no reliance can be placed on him, and it will require a considerable period of service to remove the unfavourable impressions that his conduct has given. We must hope that the sums of money that these intrigues cannot but cost him, together with the failure of the ends proposed, will induce him to see his real interests, and

urge him to use such influence as he may possess with the officers of Government in disposing them favourably towards that trade by which he benefits.

10. With the exception of a reduction from Pinqua's business, who is considered as the second Merchant in our division of business, the allotment to the other Merchants was the same as in this season.

11. We are still unable to speak decidedly of the Viceroy's intentions respecting the Junior Merchants. Since his return to Canton we understand he has expressed his intention of making inquiries into the state of the Merchants' accounts with foreigners; but we believe he cannot but be now fully aware of the impolicy of carrying his former intentions of removing these Hongs into effect.

12. In the course of the communications which have passed on this subject, we have had opportunities of hearing indirectly that the principal officers of the Canton Government, as well as the Hoppo, were fully aware of the expediency of the Government not interfering with the Hong Merchants. The question, however, appears to rest entirely with the Viceroy to decide, and it is much to be regretted that the presumption and obstinacy of his character is unfortunately such as to leave the question still in doubt.

13. We are unwilling to anticipate evils, but in the event of the Junior Merchants being removed, the strongest appeal against the Viceroy's injustice will be required from us; and we should hope a subject of such importance could not fail to excite the attention of the Imperial Government of Pekin, where we must further hope the conduct of the Viceroy towards us, in this and in the preceding season, would meet with severe censure.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 12th October 1815.

Par. 25. WE have much satisfaction in acquainting your Honourable Court, that the question relating to the continuance of the Hongs of the Junior Merchants is considered as being finally settled, the Viceroy having made such a report to Pekin, as will ensure a favourable reply from the Imperial Government; and we beg to offer our congratulations on an arrangement effected in opposition to great and peculiar difficulties, and of the most material importance to the British commercial interests generally at this port.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 3d December 1815.

Par. 7. WE have transferred to our Public Department the several documents and our proceedings on the question of the continuance of the Hongs of the Junior Merchants, and as far as we can judge from appearances at present, we believe we may congratulate your Honourable Committee on the favourable termination of that highly important question.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 12th January 1816.

Par. 143. THE approbation that your Honourable Court have been pleased to express of the measures adopted, and of the arrangements made to enable the Junior Merchants to carry on their business, affords us the highest satisfaction.

144. We have on former occasions so fully submitted our sentiments on this subject to your Honourable Court's consideration, that it is scarcely necessary for us here to repeat, that the continuance of the Hongs in question we consider to be of the greatest importance, not only to the interests of the Honourable Company, but to the foreign trade generally. We hope that no circumstances will be permitted to occasion any material interference or interruption in the arrangements at present existing for the extrication of the Junior Merchants from their embarrassments.

145. Our discussions with the Chinese Government during the last, and at the commencement of the present season, having been already transmitted, your Honourable Court will have been enabled to judge how powerfully the present system

system for the continuance of the Junior Merchants in business was assailed, first by the provincial officers, and afterwards with the authority of the Pekin Government.

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146. From the tenor of our communications during the last season, your Honourable Court will have observed that we considered the discussions in which we were involved not only during that period, but also in the year preceding (when the question relative to Mr. Roberts was agitated), to have had their origin in a plan for the removal of the Junior Merchants, when the arrangements made for their extrication from their embarrassments must necessarily have ceased.

147. The project to effect the removal of the Junior Merchants was very deeply laid, and very powerfully assisted, first by the superior provincial officers, and subsequently by the Imperial authority; and we believe, from what has since occurred, that nothing but the superior officers of Government becoming convinced that the removal of the Junior Merchants would be followed by the suspension of the foreign trade, preserved them from being declared bankrupts, and sent into banishment.

148. On our Public Proceedings, under date the 1st December, the official reply of the Viceroy and Fooyuen to the Emperor on this subject is entered; this document, we are informed, may be considered conclusive as to the continuance of the Hongs of the Junior Merchants, and we hope that they are not likely to be again disturbed.

149. Under the conviction that it is of the highest importance to the interest of the Honourable Company that the Junior Merchants should be extricated from their embarrassed situation, we shall not fail to consider it our special duty to afford every possible assistance in forwarding so desirable a measure, and in giving effect to such arrangements as the trustees may have in view for that purpose.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 23d February 1816.

Par. 11. YOUR Honourable Committee will see recorded on our Public Consultations a translation of the Imperial Edict in favour of the Junior Merchants, which we trust may be considered conclusive of their future stability.

12. Our faith in this document, together with a conviction that the general interests of the trade require us to give every possible effect to the instructions of the Honourable Court, in favour of supporting the credit of the Junior Merchants, have induced us to give them the aid of the Honourable Company this season towards the discharge of another instalment of their debt to their European creditors, although the large arrear due by them for the amount of the duties advanced by Pinqua and others, upon the Company's security, might otherwise seem to demand our prior and exclusive attention for its liquidation.

13. But we have considered it our duty on no account to allow the favourable effect upon their credit, arising from the late Imperial Edict, to be counteracted by the discouraging circumstance immediately following, of their total failure in respect to a present dividend, and which failure might have the effect of reviving, in the minds of impatient and ill-judging individuals, a wish to resort to other more summary modes of obtaining, or of at least applying for justice against the Hong Merchants, and whose effects, whatever they might be to the creditors themselves, we know would be decidedly and unequivocally pernicious to the interests of the Honourable Company.

14. The arrear for the amount of duties we fear we shall find to be augmented by the further sum of about 100,000 tales, which Pinqua has informed us, with some degree of mystery, is the probable amount of the sacrifice they will have ultimately to make to the officers of this Provincial Government (as alluded to in our Secret Consultations of the early part of this season), for their assistance in averting the destruction which hung over them.

15. We have only to hope that the increasing credit and respectability of these Merchants, will enable them to carry on their business so successfully, as to admit of their setting apart a sum out of their profits, adequate both to the discharge of their European debt, and the portion of the Chinese debt guaranteed as above by the Company, within a reasonable period.

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EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 28th January 1831.

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Par. 21. IN our Public Consultations, under date 5th January, your Honourable Court will observe a letter and enclosure from Mr. Jardine, acting as trustee in behalf of the creditors of Chunqua's Hong.

22. These claims have been in abeyance for nearly two years; and as it appears that the creditors were now quite hopeless of obtaining any redress or justice, excepting through the influence which we might possess with the Chinese Government, they applied to us for aid, which, under the circumstances of the case, we have considered it our duty to afford them.

Jan. 5, 6, 12, 15, 25.

23. We beg leave to refer your Honourable Court to our Public Consultations, under the dates noted in the margin, for the detail of the negociations we have entered on with the Government; and the statements made by the Hong Merchants on this subject. We are happy to say that we have been so far successful as to obtain an acknowledgment of the justice of the claims, and that the Cohong hold themselves responsible for the discharge of the debt. We have also obtained a positive pledge from the Merchants, that two lacs of dollars shall be paid before the new year, and a third lac during the 4th moon of the ensuing year, being the proceeds of the disposal of a part of Chunqua's property.

(8.)—ATTEMPT OF THE CHINESE TO ESTABLISH A COHONG.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 22d February 1814.

Attempt to establish a Cohong.

Par. 275. IN our proceedings, as stated in the margin, your Honourable Court will observe the attempt that was made in the early part of the season to establish Cohong Regulations, and the steps taken by the Committee.

June 18, 28; July 17; August 4, 5.

276. Immediate application was made to the Merchants and Hoppo, from whom we received the strongest assurance, that as far as Europeans were concerned, nothing was intended; the latter asserting, that it was merely for the purpose of insuring the payment of the Imperial duties, and the Merchants that the regulations existed merely in form.

277. How far these assertions may be relied on, remains to be proved. Hitherto the form of affixing a value on the goods is all that has been attempted; nor has it had the effect of preventing higher duties being given the day following; and it may be further observed, that Pinqua, who, as director, established 13*t*. 7 *m*., as the price for the Company's cotton, subsequently purchased it at 14 tales per pecul.

278. If the establishment of a Cohong system was to be seriously attempted, it would become the duty of all trading to this port firmly and decidedly to resist; much delay and inconvenience might arise from the discussion; at the same time there appears good grounds to believe, a united and well conducted resistance would ultimately prove successful.

EXTRACT LETTER from the Select Committee at Canton to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors, dated 22d February 1814.

June 17; July 4; August 11.

Par. 22. WE have recorded, under these dates, some communications made to us relative to the establishing the Cohong system.

23. The Merchants most positively deny all knowledge of the proposition having been made, and at the same time express their decided objections to the establishing this system; how far they are sincere it is impossible to say; but we have little to depend on either their liberality or their judgment, for if they possessed either, the attempt would be decidedly discouraged, as the ultimate ruin of the trade must be the result of the establishing such a system.

24. For the present we are disposed to believe that it is merely a form gone through of affixing a price on all goods at the Consoo house. Should the attempt be seriously made to establish the system, it will require the firm and decided

refusal, on the part of Europeans, to trade till these regulations are rescinded; and if properly pursued, this mode of resistance will doubtless prove successful, although considerable delay may be the consequence.

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EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the President of the Select Committee at Canton to the Chairman of the Court of Directors, dated 23d February 1815.

Par. 2. ON the 11th I received privately a copy of an Imperial Edict from Pekin respecting the Foreign Trade. A translation of this document I consider it proper to transmit to you by the earliest conveyance that offers.

3. This document confirms the apprehensions entertained by the Select Committee, that in the proceedings of the Canton Government, particularly in the months of September and October last, some attempts were meditated against the privileges allowed to the Foreign Trade, by the establishing the Cohong; and in order the more effectually to carry this point, the ruin and removal of some of the Junior Merchants, who might be disposed to assist us in resisting the project, was in contemplation.

4. By the measures of resistance adopted by the Committee, the attempt appears to have been defeated for the time, as the officers of the Canton Government found themselves placed in too delicate a situation (the prospect of the Foreign Trade being completely interrupted), to persevere on their own authority. The instigators of these attempts were therefore obliged to look for further assistance, and, by a course of intrigues, it would appear that they have succeeded in gaining the Imperial sanction; evidently, however, by imposing false statements on his Majesty.

5. From a perusal of the document it will at once appear that the complaint of an *unequal distribution* of the Company's business must come from one of the Senior Merchants. Unless urged by one of these, a circumstance so entirely out of the concerns of the officers of Government could not have been thought of; indeed, the whole of the contents of this document, when we connect them with the occurrences of this season, as also of the last, (namely, the order to establish the Cohong system in July 1813, and the discussions respecting Mr. Roberts), all tend to confirm me in the belief that these measures originate either with Pinqua or Chunqua, for Mowqua appears to stand completely acquitted.

6. The little cordiality shown by Pinqua generally towards the English, and an equally strong bias towards the Americans, with whom he has many concerns, and whose ships are loaded on his own account, might induce suspicions to be attached to him; but then again, his general conduct in supporting the Junior Merchants, by assisting them in arranging their contracts, his becoming security for, or in advancing their duties; and his arguments to me have invariably, when the situation of these Merchants was discussed, been in favour of their being supported. These circumstances, combined with his known dislike to any intercourse with the officers of his government, strongly concur in inducing the Committee to exculpate Pinqua; while, from every concurring information and circumstance, there appears to be equally strong and sufficient reasons for fixing the measure on Chunqua.

7. The official Edicts respecting native servants, the seizure of the Linguist Ayeu, the fomenting the irritation of the Government, in consequence of the supposed continued aggressions on Chinese neutrality by His Majesty's ship Doris, had for their object the involving the Committee in a serious discussion with the Government, in which it was no doubt fully expected that the Committee would have been intimidated into submission, and compliance with any measures that might have been resolved on by the Canton Government. These measures would have been the ruin and removal of several of the Junior Hongs, and the establishment of the Cohong system, of which, from his influence, Chunqua would have become the sole director. By effecting the removal of the other Merchants, a larger proportion of the Foreign and Company's trade would have fallen to his share, whilst he possessed the means and authority to affix the prices of all commodities.

8. On the trade being suspended by order of the Viceroy, in September, had the Committee proceeded to request the Government to withdraw its prohibitions, or had any anxiety been expressed on the subject, the price of loading the ships would have been the completion of Chunqua's views; finding, however, that the Committee took such decided measures, and that they also refused to trade,

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the Viceroy and Canton Government became alarmed as to the consequences to themselves, and were therefore unwilling to proceed, and accordingly the arrangement with Sir George Staunton was effected.

9. From the information that I have been enabled to collect, it appears that the Viceroy and superior officers of the Canton Government were by no means aware of being (as they were in fact), tools in the hands of Chunqua, or were they made acquainted with the precise objects he had in view. Living entirely removed from all intercourse with foreigners, the superior officers of the Government are generally very ignorant respecting foreign trade, and are enabled to form but very imperfect ideas of the character and conduct of the Honourable Company's servants; hence, by gaining the persons about the superior officers, whether relatives, clerks or domestics, Chunqua is enabled to give a bias on the occurrence of any affair; and on this their officers ground their proceedings.

10. From the tenor of the document, as it relates to an inquiry into the debts owing by the Junior Merchants, proposing their removal, and future regulations for the trade, it will be obvious that it is of most serious import to the interests of the Honourable Company in China. If these orders are carried into effect, and the Merchants are declared bankrupts, their debts, to the amount nearly of 4,000,000 of dollars, would remain to be levied from the trade in the shape of Consoo charges. A circumstance, in my opinion, not more to be dreaded than that the trade should fall under the exclusive management of one or even two Merchants. To preserve the trade from this most serious injury, it will require every exertion that the Committee have it in their power to make, by firmly resisting, or in other words, by suspending the trade, should the Merchants be threatened, and at the same time to endeavour to impress on the Viceroy the serious consequences that will follow.

11. The personal attack on Sir George Staunton may almost be considered unworthy of notice. It proves that no measures will be left untried to carry their point. It was expected (as it was, no doubt, when the objections to Mr. Roberts were revived) that this personal attack would have the effect of intimidating, and operate in preventing any resistance on the part of the Committee, from an apprehension of personal loss and inconvenience to themselves. The Committee can only rely on the confidence and support to be given them by the Honourable Court of Directors; for unless they shrink from the discharge of their duty, and surrender the conduct of their affairs to the management of Chunqua, they must be prepared to expect that these personal attacks will be repeated. There is in fact no charge, of whatever nature it may be, whether of treason against the State, or a violation of the laws and regulations of the Empire, that Chunqua may not procure to be alleged against any Member of the Committee; and with the same facility, by means of the bamboo or torture, any number of witnesses may be brought forward to attest the truth of the accusation.

12. It is impossible for me, at present, to say what measures the Government may pursue in consequence of this Edict, or whether further orders may be received from Pekin. I am unable, therefore, to state what measures the Committee may be called on to adopt to defeat their projects. I chiefly rely on the conviction with which I trust the Government and the Merchants are impressed, that the Committee will not submit to the proposed regulations; and the attempt to carry them into effect will be the ruin of the trade.

13. The serious consequences that may be expected to follow the suspension of the foreign trade have, I understand, been already brought to the consideration of the Viceroy and superior officers of the Provincial Government. The number of persons of various descriptions that would be deprived of employment and exposed to want, would soon become discontented, insurrection and disturbances, bands of robbers by land, and pirates by water, would be the consequence, and which this weak and corrupt Government cannot contemplate without the most serious apprehensions.

14. From the communications that have been made to the Honourable the Secret Committee, more particularly in the last and present season, the anxious and difficult situation in which the Select Committee are placed cannot fail to appear. It will be seen that the extensive trade carried on, sufficient to excite the views and designs of interested persons, is wholly unprotected by any laws or regulations. From the systematic corruption and venality of the officers of Government, those who should be the protectors of the trade are found to be leagued against it. It will be seen that little or no assistance is to be derived from the other

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other Hong Merchants, who scarcely can be depended on for even communicating what occurs. The Committee have therefore only to rely on their judgment to decide on, and their firmness to persevere in, the measures they may adopt to prevent the injury that the trade is threatened with; as their representations and remonstrances are either rejected or not attended to, there remains no alternative, to obtain a hearing or redress, than suspending the trade they are appointed to carry on.

15. The disadvantages that the Committee labour under in being compelled to resort to this extreme measure, are obvious. The injury and the loss that must necessarily attend an interruption to the trade, cannot but strongly induce a disposition to question the expediency or the necessity for the measure. Many points may induce a discussion with the Government, that may at first sight appear trivial; while to those more experienced, and more intimately acquainted with the character and conduct of the officers of the Chinese Government, are known to involve most important consequences. It may be further noticed, that the Chinese officers of Government, habituated in deceit and misrepresentation, assume a plausible and specious mode of reasoning, that it is calculated to mislead those who have to judge at a distance. We rely with confidence on the discernment and on the indulgence of the Honourable Court of Directors, at the same time, from the considerations here adverted to, however the Committee may feel satisfied, and know that they are duly discharging the duties of the important trust reposed in them, cannot fail to excite a degree of anxiety as to the future decision that is to be passed upon their conduct.

16. In the situation in which the trade is placed, it is liable to be interrupted at the caprice of an individual; and should the Viceroy for the time chance to be rather more ignorant, and at the same time more violent in disposition than his predecessors, a complete interruption to the trade must inevitably ensue.

17. There appears to be no mode so likely to prevent these injurious consequences than that of establishing a direct and frequent communication between the two Governments. Missions on a far more moderate scale than the former Embassy may prove fully as efficacious. No particular act or appearance of favour, or concession, need be expected from the Chinese Government. The beneficial effects will be in placing the British nation on a more respectable footing with respect to China; and their frequent communications, independent of the superior advantage an Embassy will now possess of English interpreters, will prove to the Provincial Authorities that remonstrances can be conveyed to Pekin.

I have the honour to remain, Honourable Sirs,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(signed) *J. T. Elphinstone.*

Canton, 23d February 1815.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 11th March 1815.

Par. 4. WE have the honour to forward by the Cambridge a copy of our proceedings in this Department since the departure of the Earl Spencer, to which we beg to refer your Honourable Committee for the detail of the important documents issued by the Chinese Government respecting the Foreign Trade, together with our sentiments thereon.

5. By the Russian ship Henry, our President had the honour to forward, addressed to the Honourable the Chairman, a copy of the Edict received from Pekin, recorded in our diary under date the 11th February.

6. Since that date we have obtained the copy of an Imperial Edict, being in reply to the statement made by the Viceroy from Canton on the 30th November, wherein certain regulations for the Foreign Trade were proposed, the documents are recorded under date the 3d March.

7. In our Consultations of the 11th February and 3d March, we have endeavoured to trace and to explain the causes that have excited the Chinese Government to the measures they have adopted in the last and in this season, it will appear that the influence and the intrigues of Chunqua, combined with the want of firmness, and in the case of the discussion respecting His Majesty's ships, a want of inclination on the part of Pinqua, may be considered as the sources from whence our serious differences have proceeded.

8. In consequence of the resistance made to the measures of the Canton Government in October and November, and the arrangements they were induced to accede to with Sir George Staunton, Chunqua may be considered to have failed at that time in establishing what he had in view, namely the removal of some of the Merchants, in order that he might have a larger proportion of the trade, and the establishment of the Cohong system in order that he might conduct that trade as it best suited to his purposes.

9. Determined, however, on making further attempts, he appears to have obtained by his influence a communication to be made to his Imperial Majesty, whereby misrepresentation as to the state and conduct of the Foreign State, certain precautionary regulations were expected to be directed, as would be suited to his views; and in order to secure compliance on the part of the Committee, the personal attack, and charges alleged respecting Sir George Staunton, appear to have been brought forward; these, it was no doubt expected, would fully answer the purpose of intimidating and of deterring any servant of the Honourable Company from disputing his wishes.

10. As far as the regulations respecting the Foreign Trade go, it would seem that there is a singular coincidence in the report made by the Viceroy and that made through the influence of Chunqua. The report respecting Sir George Staunton is altogether without the knowledge of the Viceroy, while the recal of Puankhequa to officiate as head Hong Merchant is known to be wholly independent of Chunqua, as in fact no measure could more completely check his view and designs than the return of Puankhequa.

11. How far the Viceroy and Fooyuen acted under Chunqua's influence is therefore uncertain; or whether it still continues to operate and direct their decisions, under the circumstances in which the Foreign Trade is placed, viz. a Merchant possessing the extraordinary talents for intrigue, and the influence that Chunqua appears to possess, the extraordinary state of alarm and irritation that the distracted state of the empire seems to have occasioned to the Imperial Government, while at the same time the provincial authorities seem to be particularly ill-disposed, the return of a person of Puankhequa's character and firmness may be expected to be attended with beneficial effects.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee of Supracargoes at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 26th March 1817.

Par. 13. THE judicious measures adopted by our predecessors to check the Senior Merchants in their endeavours to establish the Cohong system, we hope have had their due effect, at least there does not appear any outward or public wish to continue the attempt. The formal observances are still continued, and the three Merchants are only admitted to the Viceroy's presence; but we are inclined to believe our firm resistance to this measure is so well understood that no serious attempt will be made.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 19th March 1825.

Par. 40. IN discussions with the provincial officers we have always evinced to the Hong Merchants our sense of the impropriety of conducting any public business to which every Hong Merchant is not a party; the only way we possessed of demonstrating our opposition to the formation of a Cohong was by always insisting on the attendance of all the Merchants when the two Senior Merchants presented themselves with letters or communications with the Government.

41. It is long since the establishment of a Cohong for commercial purposes was directed by the Provincial Government; nor are we aware of any attempt on the part of the Senior Merchants to control the proceedings of their junior colleagues, or the existence of other influence than that which Pinqua naturally derives from the obligations which his wealth has enabled him to confer upon the principal part of the Junior Hongs.

42. From

Attempt to establish a Cohong

42. From the division of interests which now exists among the Senior Merchants, there is little dread of any injury being derived to the commercial interests of the Company by their coalition. Chunqua and Pinqua may rather be looked upon as contending rivals than be dreaded for the establishment of a community of proceedings.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Separate Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 28th January 1830.

Part of Par. 7. THE forfeiture of the pledge given to foreigners by the Viceroy, that the elder Chunqua should be caused to return to Canton, is greatly destructive of confidence in the promises of the Government. Without entering into discussion upon the probable causes of such inconsistent acts, we could only come to the decision that the Cohong system would be thereby established, which, by placing the trade under the immediate control of the local government, facilitates their views of private emolument, imposes fixed prices upon import and export commodities, and, by destroying importation, throws the whole weight of government extortions upon the Tea Trade of the Honourable Company.

Par. 8. The present state of the Hong appears to afford a tempting opportunity for the introduction of the system to which we allude. At the head is Howqua, a Merchant of great mercantile talent and property, estimated to be of large value, but which, united with the natural timidity of his disposition, renders him an easy prey to the avarice of the local officers. Puankhequa, though supposed to possess a considerable property, cannot compete in trade with Howqua, and has always confined his dealings within fixed limits, conducting them in conformity with the views of the Senior Merchants. Mowqua, long a debtor of Howqua's, has lately increased his obligations to maintain the very existence of his Hong. At the time that this subject was under our consideration the Hong of Chunqua was necessarily deemed to be extinct. The respectability of the Hong of Goqua depends upon the life of a relation of the Merchant, now rendered exceedingly precarious by age and sickness. It owed its restoration from bankruptcy in 1814 to a loan from Howqua, and since that time has paid submissive deference to the will of that Merchant. The Hongs of Kinqua and Fatqua cannot be viewed, commercially speaking, as of independent character.

9. From the foregoing considerations, it results that Howqua exercises unlimited power over the interests of the whole foreign trade, while he is himself as immediately subject to the control of the Government. The establishment of the Cohong system is virtually effected, and it has been lately exemplified in the case of the American tea trade, the circumstances of which are as follows:

10. Upon the suspension of our trade this season, the American Merchants, encouraged by the prospect of being the sole purchasers of tea in the market, combined to reduce the price of that commodity below the standard of last year. This combination was for some time steadily adhered to, but was finally overruled by the influence of Howqua, and prices exacted exceeding considerably those of the preceding season. The American Merchants have been compelled to submit to this increased appreciation, which in some kinds of tea has amounted to eight tales per cent.

11. A desire to destroy competition in trade has long characterized the policy of the Chinese Government. It was counteracted by the firm resistance of Mr. Elphinstone, President, with his colleagues the members of the Select Committee, in the year 1814; and the good effects of that decisive stand have extended up to the present time. The Hongs of Chunqua and Manhop have of late years been principally instrumental in maintaining competition of prices, and we viewed with sincere regret a door opened for the introduction of the restrictive system, by the insolvency of the two Hongs above-mentioned.

12. It is unnecessary to point out to your Honourable Court the ruinous prospect threatened to commerce by the exchange of commodities at fixed prices dictated by one party. Competition must ever be deemed the source of spirit and energy in trade; when withdrawn, a gradual decline will ensue in all countries, but especially when, as in this, it is accelerated by the rapacity of a local government indifferent to every thing but temporary advantage to themselves.

13. We have dreaded the approach of this alarming condition of affairs, through the whole progress of our proceedings, and we view the prevention of it as of

 greater

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greater importance than all the other subjects which we have brought to the notice of the Government unitedly. Our suggestions of improvement of system, and our claims for the redress of grievances, have indeed all been founded upon the principle of averting this great and impending evil, the precursor of the total annihilation of the trade. But if the Chinese Government would have replaced affairs in such a state as to remove these apprehensions, by the restoration of the Hong of Chunqua, and the establishment of new Hongs of respectability and property, even to a limited number, we should have been induced to wave other considerations. We beg to explain distinctly to your Honourable Court, that our proposals of reformation were founded upon the fact, which was acknowledged by the Government itself, that natives of substance would not engage in the foreign trade under the old system. We have never wished to force a commercial code upon the Chinese authorities, at variance with the regulations of the Empire, but considered it incumbent to point out impediments, when the plea of impracticability was urged in defence of our non-compliance with the positive commands of the Court of Pekin.

14. Seeing that the evil which we had dreaded at the commencement and through the progress of this discussion, the introduction of the Cohong system, could no longer be viewed as a matter of doubt and speculation, but had actually been put in force, we turned our attention to the circumstances under which we could renew commercial transactions, subject to the baneful influence of its action, and endeavoured to form an estimate of the probable success of our endeavours to resist it.

(9.)—EMBASSY UNDER LORD AMHERST.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Macao to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors, dated 6th June 1816.

Lord Amherst's Embassy.

Par. 4. HIS Majesty's ship Orlando having put us in possession of your Honourable Court's Instructions of the 15th and 25th September and 4th October 1815, and the intelligence of the intended Mission having almost immediately after began to circulate among the Portuguese at this Settlement, upon the receipt of their newspapers by their ships from Bengal, we were sensible that not a moment was to be lost in anticipating the effects of false and unauthenticated reports, by a full and official communication on the subject to the local government.

5. On the 28th ultimo, we accordingly addressed his Excellency the Fooyuen, (who is the acting Viceroy,) on this important subject, and transmitted our despatch express to Canton under cover to the Hong Merchants. We have since had the satisfaction to learn from two Hong Merchants, who were ordered to proceed to Macao by the Fooyuen, that his Excellency has opened and read our address, and has engaged to forward a despatch on the subject express to Pekin, the moment he has received our replies to certain queries of no material importance, which were received on the 3d instant, and the answers transmitted by us to Canton to Sir Theophilus Metcalfe the same evening.

6. Sir Theophilus Metcalfe returned to his station from Bengal, and took his seat as second member of this Committee, on the 30th ultimo. On the same day, the arrival of the Honourable Company's ship Thomas Grenville put us in possession of the letter from the Earl of Buckinghamshire to the Viceroy; and Sir George Staunton feeling it his duty to await at Macao the arrival of his Excellency the Ambassador, Sir Theophilus Metcalfe readily offered his services to proceed to Canton in execution of the instructions received on this subject from your Honourable Committee. He left Macao in a chop boat on the 1st, accompanied by Mr. Morison, Mr. Daniell and Captain Clavel of His Majesty's ship Orlando, and we are in hourly expectation of some account of the opening of the business of his mission.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Macao to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors, dated 7th July 1816.

Par. 1. WE had last the honour to address your Honourable Committee in this department on the 1st of June, by the American ship Beverley, and have now the honour to forward a duplicate of the same.

2. In our postscript to that letter we informed your Honourable Committee that necessary arrangements had been made at Canton for presenting the letter from the Right Honourable the Earl of Buckinghamshire; we have now to congratulate your Honourable Committee on the readiness shown by the Fooyuen (acting as Viceroy) to receive this communication, and the letter was placed in his hands by Sir Theophilus Metcalfe, within four and twenty hours after his arrival at Canton. A requisition was made by Sir Theophilus Metcalfe to be allowed the privilege of a seat during the audience; but this was refused, on the ground of the necessity on this important occasion of receiving this letter in the public hall of the palace, called the Emperor's Hall, in which Mandarins of high rank, who must be present, would be standing; it was added, that should the Fooyuen require further information, he would receive Sir T. Metcalfe in a private room, and a seat would be granted. As at that time we were in daily expectation of the arrival of Lord Amherst, it was highly desirable to meet the readiness shown upon this occasion, and of the utmost importance to ensure a speedy notification of the approach of the Embassy at Pekin. Sir T. Metcalfe therefore judged it proper to wave this privilege on the present occasion, and would not delay the communication by entering into a negotiation of which there appeared little prospect of success. On the 4th of June, Sir T. Metcalfe proceeded to the city, accompanied by Captain Clavel and such gentlemen of the Factory as were in Canton. He expresses himself much pleased with the reception he met.

3. On the 5th a set of interrogatories were brought to the Factory by the Merchants, which they asserted they were directed by the Fooyuen to put to Sir T. Metcalfe. To these appropriate replies were given. The Merchants declared that the report would be sent to Pekin on the following day, and every thing appeared most satisfactory.

4. In a few days after it appeared that Captain Clavel's name had been put first in the paper delivered by them to the Fooyuen, and that he was considered as the person who had presented the letter. The Merchants called at the Factory to state that they had received an order directing them to give a bond, securing that the four gentlemen who presented the letter should remain for the answer from Pekin; Sir T. Metcalfe could not but express his displeasure at this act of the Merchants, as they had been fully apprised of the object of Captain Clavel in accompanying him, arising from a wish to pay his personal respects to the Fooyuen. With respect to any bond of security, they were at liberty to act as they pleased with respect to Sir T. Metcalfe, who would undoubtedly remain for the answer; but they were warned of evil consequences to themselves should they bind themselves for any other person, more particularly a Captain in His Majesty's Navy, who they well knew was independent of the Select Committee. The measures adopted by Sir T. Metcalfe to assist the Merchants in this dilemma are recorded in this department, and we trust will meet the approbation of your Honourable Committee. This affair occasioned the Merchants much trouble and long attendance at the palace for some days, and was as usual got rid of by an expedient.

5. Every thing appeared to go on satisfactorily when Sir Theophilus Metcalfe left Canton, excepting some private communications from Howqua and Puankhequa, with a view of dissuading Sir George Staunton from accompanying the Embassy. These are recorded on the 20th ultimo, in a report from Sir T. Metcalfe; and we beg to draw the attention of your Honourable Committee to the minutes entered on this subject by that gentleman and the President on the 28th of June. Similar communications have since been made to Mr. Robarts, and it is not impossible that some intrigues or secret influence may be yet employed, but we are willing to hope will not be attended with any success to the ultimate prejudice of the public interests.

6. The only reply which we made at the time to this communication was, that we had not yet received His Royal Highness the Prince Regent's commands on the subject; but that whatever they were, they certainly would and must be strictly obeyed.

 7. These

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7. These communications have appeared to us wholly undeserving of attention, because we considered the objections of the Hong Merchants, expressed probably at the instigation of the local government, to arise entirely from those very circumstances which led to the determination of the authorities in England to consider Sir George Staunton as a proper person to be nominated a member of the Mission, and that they are in fact not so much personal objections to him as objections to those objects of the Embassy, which the presence and co-operation of a person acquainted with the language of the country, and the late proceedings of the local government, may be supposed calculated to promote.

8. We have however laid these, and all other facts connected with the Embassy, unreservedly before Lord Amherst, in our several letters (as recorded) to his Excellency's address, and these circumstances will be further detailed by Sir George Staunton in person.

9. Sir George Staunton requests us also to assure your Honourable Committee, that should His Majesty's Commissioners take a different view of the subject from ourselves, no personal consideration of his own shall in the smallest degree interfere with the complete carrying into effect, of what they shall deem upon consideration best for the public service.

10. The delay which has taken place in the arrival of his Excellency the Embassador, has exceeded all reasonable calculation that could have been formed, and placed us in a very painful state of suspense and perplexity.

11. The season is now so far advanced, and the answer from Pekin in all probability so very near at hand, that we have at present no other alternative but that of either waiting the arrival of the Imperial Edict, and thereby exposing His Majesty's Mission to all the hazards so much deprecated in your Honourable Committee's letter of the 27th September, or to resolve on Sir George Staunton's proceeding at once to sea, with the other gentlemen attached to the Mission, and meeting the Ambassador at some place of rendezvous, where some further measures might be concerted without interruption, and whence the Embassy might ultimately proceed, if deemed advisable, without being exposed to interference or detention on the part of the Canton Government.

12. It would have been more pleasant and satisfactory to ourselves to have awaited the receipt of a more detailed communication of his Excellency's wishes, as well as more recent instructions from your Honourable Committee, but the instructions and advices already received fully authorize, in our opinion, the proposed step, and its expediency under present circumstances appearing to us to admit of no doubt, it has only remained for us to adopt such a style of communication on the subject to the local government, as might not in any event commit his Excellency or our honourable employers, and yet preclude all imputation of a mysterious or clandestine proceeding.

13. We trust it will satisfactorily appear by the letters recorded on our Secret Proceedings, that we have done our utmost to reconcile these objects, and we feel assured that your Honourable Committee will readily perceive, that the difficulties which we now lament were such as no foresight or precaution could have prevented; for although at the time the embassy was announced, its approach was daily expected and calculated on with a well-grounded confidence long before the present moment, the secret was not in our power to withhold (being universally circulated by letters and newspapers,) and therefore an authentic and official report was the only resource left against the most fatal and injurious misrepresentations from private sources.

(10.)—COMBINATION OF THE TEA MERCHANTS IN CHINA.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 10th December 1819.

Combination of Tea Merchants.

Par. 10. FINDING at the present advanced period that the dispute was not in a channel of adjustment, and the teas immediately required being consequently unavailable, we have deemed it incumbent upon us to take more active measures for the assistance of the Hong Merchants, and the most ready means that presented themselves are the holding out such a threat of the non-acceptance of any teas tendered or manufactured by them, as may induce the principals, who are represented

sented as exercising overbearing influence by their secession, to weaken and perhaps abolish the existing combination.

11. The principal feature in the terms required by the Tea Manufacturers is the retention of the whole chop in their warehouses, until a sufficient number of chests being inspected and approved by the Hong Merchant, the sale is to be finally concluded, and no longer subjected to the influence of any reduction, which, from inferiority to muster, or other causes, we may deem it necessary to impose.

12. Our conviction of the necessity of resisting an innovation fraught with such danger to the future quality of the teas, to the interests of the Junior Merchants, the re-establishment of whose circumstances we are so desirous of effecting, and opening the door to future demands, which the successful result of the present might encourage the manufacturers annually to prefer, has induced us to view the possible detention of the fleet, and even a sacrifice of some of the superior teas, as the preferable alternative to the introduction of a measure, which once established, we might in vain endeavour to remove.

13. The Merchants were accordingly summoned, and informed that a manufacturer named Pun-luy-lau, supported by Tsuyu-Mow and Tsong Fong, having been represented to us as the principal leaders of this obnoxious combination, it was our intention, if this affair was not immediately arranged, to form the unalterable resolution of not receiving any teas purchased from them, except on the terms and conditions of winter purchases. After some observations from the Merchants, who attributed the present coalition to the rigour with which these teas are now appreciated and reduced, they promised to communicate our resolutions to the manufacturers, which they conceived might be attended with good effect, and were rather sanguine in their expectations of the speedy restoration of the commerce to its former footing.

14. It is impossible for us to anticipate with any degree of certainty the success of this measure, or the result which may attend the exertions of the Hong Merchants in quashing this combination, but your Honourable Court may rely, that the detention of the ships, or the compromise of the immediate interests of the Company, however temporary, will not be resorted to by us, unless imperiously called for in prevention of prospective evils of far more serious character.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors, dated 10th January 1820.

Par. 28. WE now proceed to lay before your Honourable Committee an abstract of such part of our Consultations as relates to the difficulties we have experienced from the combination of the Black Tea Merchants.

29. After the late despatch, finding that the teas immediately required by us were unavailable, and that the dispute still remained without any prospect of an adjustment, we deemed it necessary to call upon the Tea Merchants themselves for a statement of their real requisitions; and, accordingly, received from them a letter, in which they made no abatement whatever in the most obnoxious part of their former demands, as they still insisted that the teas upon delivery should not be subject to a reduction in price, on being found inferior to the muster.

30. We then considered it our duty to adopt some decisive line of conduct, and having no doubt of the combination being alone upheld by Puan-luy-lau, and two or three others of the more opulent Teamen, while those who were less able to support it would willingly give in to our terms, we framed a proposal which could afford no reasonable ground of complaint to the former; but which being rejected would ensure their punishment; and by its advantages tempt the latter class to recede from the combination.

31. Having, in the first instance, summoned the Merchants, and required from them the names of the manufacturers of the several chops of tea tendered to us of contract quality, they were next desired to demand specifically of Puan-luy-lau, if he was willing to furnish his teas under the following stipulations: "That in order to obviate the objections of the whole chop being marked previous to its final acceptance (an objection of which we could not deny the validity, since, in the event of a chop being rejected, its value was thereby deteriorated), 30 chests only should be taken out of their mat casings for examination and taring, and on

their agreement with the muster chest should depend the acceptance or rejection of the whole chop."

32. The price we offered for the

	t.	*m.*
1st class of teas was - - -	19	5
2d - - - - - - -	18	5
3d - - - - - - -	18	—

33. Two days were allowed for the consideration of the above proposal, and at the expiration of that period the refusal of Puan-luy-lau being implied by his silence, we sent back the musters of those chops belonging to him which had been tendered to us.

34. We determined then to make the same proposal to Heng Chun, another of the leaders of the cabal, and, in the event of his refusal, to offer generally to receive teas of any Merchant who would furnish them in the manner we wished. Should they all persist in non-acquiescence, we resolved to offer such a price to the dealers, whose chops had been thrown out of our investment as below contract quality, as we had every reason to think they would accept, in spite of any threats that might be held out by the others.

35. We were not unaware of the risk which we hereby incurred of some of the superior chops being withdrawn from our investment, and that we might be compelled to purchase indifferent teas at high prices; but we considered such an alternative as preferable to submission to the terms of the Tea Merchants. We were sensible too of its being contrary to all probability, that a numerous body of men, whose decided interest it was to accept of the terms offered to them, would continue to be held in thraldom by a few individuals whose large capitals enabled them to bear the heavy loss arising from the present delay.

36. On the 29th ultimo we learnt, that Heng Chun had not only refused to deliver his teas on the terms proposed to him, but that the Tea Dealers had assembled and signed a declaration not to deliver a chest until we had first received the chops belonging to Puan-luy-lau and Heng Chun. It then became necessary for us to consider what temptation in price we should offer to the owners of the teas which had proved below contract quality.

37. In forming our determination on this point, we conceived that when the importance of the object to be gained was taken into consideration, such decidedly advantageous terms should be held out as could not be rejected by the poorer Tea Merchants. It was resolved, therefore, that the price offered to them should be 18 *js.* In the event of the success of the proposed measure, it was at the same time necessary to guard against the obligation of receiving teas of very inferior quality, and to a great extent at the enhanced price. We determined, therefore, to limit the teas to be received to the character of ordinary and good ordinary, and to the extent of 10,000 chests. This limitation we conceived might besides be attended with the good effect of creating a competition to participate in the advantages held out.

38. From the great extent of the tonnage of this season, we cannot have at our disposal above 30,000 chests of Congo at winter prices, even after receiving green teas of a lower order than is customary. This is very short of the quantity we could wish to obtain, when we consider that the investment of 1819–20 is estimated, in the Honourable Company's letter of the 18th May, at 27 millions of pounds. To complete this will require 230,000 chests of Congo; and as we do not deem it advisable that our contracts should exceed 160,000 chests, it was our duty to endeavour to throw as large a portion as possible of the teas of the present season into our winter assortment.

39. We therefore agreed to receive at winter prices a few chops of the last season still remaining in the market, and, with the same view, have at Manhop's earnest solicitation, and on his satisfying us of his ability to complete his contract of Bohea, of undeniable quality, been induced to receive at the price of 12 *t.* 5 *m.* that portion of Bohea furnished by him, which was rejected at the packing, amounting to 270 peculs.

40. Anxious to counteract as much as possible the delay arising from the combination of the Tea Merchants, we have, by receiving four chops of Congo of Conseequa, and two of Kinqua, their own property, and by sending on board a larger proportion of green teas, been able to complete the lading of the Essex, Vansittart and Waterloo, much earlier than would otherwise have been in our power;

power; and we trust that our conduct in this respect will meet your Honourable Committee's approval.

41. By the adoption of the same plan with the Marquis Camden and Inglis, we hope also to effect an early despatch of those two ships. We are, at the same time, extremely cautious as to receiving any chops of tea which are not the Hong Merchants' own property.

46. Since writing the above, we beg to inform your Honourable Court, in continuation of the discussions pending with the Tea Merchants, that the advantages we hoped to derive from the last measure resorted to (that of giving an advanced price for some of the teas inferior to contract quality), are beginning to appear; several Tea Merchants having come forward and offered to deliver their teas on the terms at which we originally proposed to receive them.

47. Although these persons are known to have been averse to the measures pursued, and their being enabled to dispose of their teas to us does not imply that the terms demanded by the body have been relinquished, yet we consider the secession of these individuals as a point of great importance, and should their example be tacitly followed, the confederacy may be considered as dissolved.

48. In agreeing to the novel mode of weighing teas, we had in view the early termination of the dispute, by depriving the Tea Merchants of their only apparently just ground of complaint; our offers having been distinctly refused, it is in our power to insist on the teas being delivered in the established manner. Of the expediency of immediately insisting on this measure, at the present moment of irritation, we are not yet satisfied; but the teas which we have offered to receive, of the character ordinary and good ordinary, it is distinctly understood are to be laid out as customary.

49. One Tea Merchant, who had accepted these terms, has been deterred by threats from fulfilling his agreement, but at the same time another has stept forward; a day or two will determine his success or failure, and on the result will depend in a great measure our resolution on this subject.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 11th January 1820.

Par. 3. WE are most happy to be enabled, by this opportunity, to inform your Honourable Court, that the sanguine expectations conveyed in the last paragraph of our Secret Commercial Despatch, have been fully realised; and that the Tea Merchants, convinced by the unvarying resistance that we have opposed to their innovations, straitened by the distress occasioned to them by so long a delay, and their individual fears being awakened by our threats to receive inferior teas, to the exclusion of those of superior quality thus withheld from our purchases, have dissolved the combination so vainly and unjustly established, the trade has again assumed its former tone and character. We trust that a conviction of the futility of such attempts will secure our commerce in this quarter from any future delays and embarrassments of a similar character.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 29th January 1820.

Par. 6. ON the 24th instant, we were furnished with a copy of a proclamation, issued by the chief magistrate of the district to the Tea Manufacturers, in which the heaviest punishments are denounced against all combinations to keep back teas from the market; and every dealer is encouraged to bring to the notice of the officers of Government any future attempt to force him, by threats and intimidation, into a participation in such illegal acts.

7. We cannot but consider the document above alluded to as highly satisfactory, since we shall now be secured from all future combinations on the part of the Tea Manufacturers, not only from a consideration of their pecuniary interests, but also by the fear of punishment.

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China Papers.

Frauds respecting Contract Teas.

(11).—FRAUDS, &c. RESPECTING CONTRACT TEAS.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors, dated 9th February 1828.

Par. 9. FRAUDS in the delivery of teas inferior to the quality contracted for, and the misappropriations of funds advanced for the purchase of teas, have been perpetrated to such an extent upon the Hong Merchants by the dealers principally in green tea in the present season, that the former have at last been convinced of the necessity of stopping, by strong representations to Government, the progress of a system which, if not checked, is calculated to embarrass, in a great degree, the provision of a supply of green teas for the Canton market, and will extend eventually to the provision of the staple class of our investment, Congos and other black teas.

10. The Merchants propose, upon the re-opening of the Government offices, after the new year, to bring this subject seriously to the attention of the Viceroy, and have requested in this representation our advice and co-operation. We are fully prepared, by a conviction of the urgent necessity of a change in the present system, to give our support to this measure in a manner most calculated to promote success; but a previous knowledge of the intractability and proverbial dishonesty of the class of men of whom the tea trade is composed, convinces us that nothing but severe examples of individuals can promise any permanent amelioration in their dealings.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 15th March 1828.

Par. 11. WE have had under our consideration the adoption of some measures by which the fulfilment of the Merchants' contracts (a subject which we had the honour to bring to the notice of the Honourable the Secret Commercial Committee in our address dated the 9th ultimo) might be so ensured, as to enable us to look with certainty to a supply of teas for the consumption of the home market, of such quality as is desirable to form our investment.

12. The numerous frauds committed by the Tea-men in their transactions with the Hong Merchants, such as the embezzlement of funds advanced them for the purchase of teas, and failing in their engagements to provide teas of a quality suited to the market, have rendered it necessary for the preservation of the interests of the trade to request the interference of the officers of Government. The Merchants having agreed to frame petitions, both from their individual Hongs, and as an united body of merchants, requested our assistance in representing this matter to the Viceroy, and requesting that his Excellency would cause such exemplary punishment to be inflicted upon the defaulters in the present instance, as would prevent a repetition of such frauds in future.

13. Feeling that the interests of our honourable employers were involved in the subject under consideration, both as regarded a certain and suitable supply of tea for the London market, and the protection of the property of the Hong Merchants, to whom we look for this supply, we promised our willing support to this measure. An address was framed to the Viceroy, stating the disappointment to which we were exposed in our commercial transactions by the non-fulfilment of the Merchants' contracts to supply teas, for which funds and tonnage are annually provided, both in Europe and India, and we requested his Excellency's strenuous interference to prevent the further derangement of the commerce, which must ensue if the system practised by the Tea-men were not suppressed.

14. The Merchants having for some days postponed the presentation of their own address to the Government upon this subject, for which no satisfactory reason has been ascribed by them, we determined upon the 13th instant to lay our own representation of the case before his Excellency. The favourable reception of this address which we anticipate from the statements of the Merchants, will probably give them confidence, in bringing their individual losses to the notice of the Viceroy; and we hope that the united application of the Committee and Hong Merchants will induce his Excellency to adopt some active measures for checking a system so injurious to the general interests of the trade

15. When

15. When we receive the Viceroy's reply to our address, which we shall have the honour to communicate to your Honourable Court by the next opportunity which offers, we shall proceed to the conclusion of the contracts for the ensuing season.

Frauds respecting Contract Teas.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 18th November 1828.

Par. 56. IN our despatch dated 15th March of this year, we had the honour to communicate to your Honourable Court the proceedings which we had considered it necessary to adopt, in co-operation with the Hong Merchants, to procure the punishment of those Green Tea Merchants who had proved defaulters in their agreement to supply teas in the preceding season, and had misappropriated the sums of money which had in some instances been advanced to them for that purpose by the Hong Merchants.

57. The Viceroy, in reply to the address alluded to in the 14th paragraph of the despatch quoted above, directed the Merchants to make a report to him of the facts, which having accordingly been laid before him, and our representations being thereby confirmed, an edict was promulgated by the Viceroy, directing the apprehension and punishment of the delinquents, which we considered a satisfactory decree in support of the Hong Merchants.

58. A representation has lately been made by the Tea Merchants to the Government, complaining that their teas are unjustly reduced in price by the Hong Merchants, and requesting that the Viceroy would interfere in their behalf. We are happy to say, that this allegation was met by a very proper exposition on the part of the Hong Merchants of the manner in which the appreciation and purchase of the Company's teas are conducted. The Viceroy in consequence rejected the Tea Merchants' petition as unworthy of his consideration, and directed that their dealings should be conducted according to the old established custom.

(12.)—CHARGES ON THE FOREIGN TRADE.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 30th November 1818.

Charges on the Foreign Trade.

Par. 16. YOUR Honourable Court will find in our records a discussion with the Hong Merchants, on the mode of payment which should be adopted in settling the voluntary gift from that body to their Emperor, on his attaining his 60th year.

17. In the commencement the Hoppo is said to have apprised the Junior Merchants, of the intention of the Salt Merchants and other public bodies to tender considerably larger sums on this occasion than were offered in the 50th year, and hinted his expectation of their body proving equally liberal. It was asserted by many that Pinqua endeavoured to persuade the Hoppo against urging such a request, and that his Excellency, irritated by his hesitation, reminded him of his ready compliance with a pecuniary demand in the preceding season, when his fears were excited, and hinted that measures of intimidation must again be resorted to. This threat had its due effect, and the sum of 300,000 instead of 200,000 tales was ultimately offered, though not without some opposition from one of the Merchants, who was, however, brought into the measure by the argument of his personal interest not being affected, as, in fact, the contribution would be paid by the foreign trade.

18. We considered it our duty to endeavour to relieve the foreign trade from this burden, and pointed out the injustice of charging it with an avowed voluntary gift to the Emperor. The Senior Merchants pleaded established custom in support of this mode of levying the contribution, as well as the danger that a division of this sum among the Merchants might hereafter be made a precedent by which individual property might be rendered responsible for the debts of future bankrupts, and be taxed to realize the heavy impositions of Government. To this it was observed, that the case of bankruptcy was too visionary to require a reply; that the principle of taxing commerce, to meet the exigencies of the case, was admitted in all nations, though in China Europeans had to complain of the little notice

II. China Papers.

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given of additional charges on their trade. But on the occasion of a voluntary gift from the subjects of a nation as a compliment to their Emperor, it was unjust in the extreme to tax the foreign trade.

19. Several letters passed between the Hong Merchants and the Committee on this subject, in which we pointed out an equitable division of this sum, founded on our ideas of the ability of each Hong, but we regret to add, without producing the desired effect. We felt it our duty to address the Hoppo on the subject, and from his Excellency's reply your Honourable Court will observe, that any new impost on the trade is positively prohibited.

20. Notwithstanding this Edict, we have every reason to believe that the Merchants will raise the amount from the Consoo Funds. Whether that fund is able to bear this new charge, it is entirely out of our power to ascertain; but as the Junior Merchants will undoubtedly call for our assistance, it will remain to determine at a future period the measures to be adopted by the Committee. The sum accepted by his Imperial Majesty is 200,000 tales.

(13.)—DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CANTON.—SEASON 1814–15.

Secret Department.

LETTER from the Select Committee of Supracargoes at Canton to the Honourable the Secret Committee of the Honourable the Court of Directors, dated 1st October 1814.

Honourable Sirs,

Discussions with the Government of Canton.

Par. 1. WE have to inform your Honourable Committee that the conduct of the Chinese Government has been such as to induce us to direct the commanders of the five Bombay and China ships lately arrived, to proceed no further up the river than Chumpee.

2. The proceedings of the Chinese Government arise partly from His Majesty's ships remaining on this station, and the delay and detention their presence has occasioned to the American vessels* that have been for some time loaded and ready for sea.

* Jacob Jones, America, Sphynx, Schooner. Russell - D°. Tamahamah, D°.

3. It was to be expected that the Americans would make every representation in their power, in the hope of effecting the removal of His Majesty's ships, or of embroiling us with the Chinese Government; and your Honourable Committee must be fully aware, from the cargoes of the American prize ships, how deeply interested and concerned the head Hong Merchant, Pinqua, is in the safety of, and in the sailing of American vessels.

4. The representations hostile to His Majesty's ships have been received with an attention, and excited an interest generally among the officers of Government, such as we should not have expected to have seen had a mere sense of duty only operated. We are disposed to attribute much of the activity displayed by officers of the Government against His Majesty's ships to an influence very generally practised, and with never failing efficacy in every department of the Government of this Empire; at the same time we are not prepared to say to what extent the services of the officers of Government have been paid for, or whether the principal or the agent employed to secure their services was Pinqua.

5. On the 12th instant the armed American brig Rambler arrived, and proceeded to Whampoa, the following day her prize the Arabella, country ship belonging to Bengal, anchored in the roads under English colours, on ascertaining that His Majesty's ships were at Chumpee, the officer in charge of the Arabella determined on carrying the ship into Macao harbour.

6. Agreeably with existing treaty the Portuguese Government refused to protect the Arabella, and ordered a guard on board with instructions to carry the ship beyond the limits of Portuguese neutrality, where the ship was found abandoned by the boats of His Majesty's ship Doris, and was taken possession of for the benefit of the owners.

7. Notwithstanding very clear evidence and corroborating circumstances brought forward as well by the Portuguese as ourselves, that the vessel was not an American but an English captured ship, the Canton Government appeared very unwilling

unwilling to admit that the vessel was not an American, as she had at first been represented by the Americans to be; and in retaliation for the supposed breach of neutrality, supplies were at first refused to His Majesty's ships; the English and American trade was suspended, and the port clearances were refused to some of the country ships on the eve of departure for India.

8. We must observe, that previous to the arrival of the Rambler, the Chinese Government had thought proper to revert to the example of a former Viceroy, Pé, who distinguished himself in 1810 by his unjust and oppressive proceedings towards Europeans; and we received an edict from the Fooyuen and Hoppo, directing that no native attendants would be permitted about the European Factories, and that such Chinese as should violate the laws by attending would be seized and punished accordingly.

9. We addressed a reply to the Fooyuen and Hoppo, and stated that, above 100 years, during which the trade had been carried on, there had existed the same desire and endeavour on the part of the English to comply with the regulations of the China Government, and to prevent the riots and disturbances between the people of both countries; consequently we had reduced as much as possible the European attendants either belonging to the Honourable Company's Factory or the Factories occupied by the Commanders of the English ships.

10. It was further stated, as the trade was very extensive the number of attendants was necesarily very great, and those hitherto had been composed of Chinese, but that it would be far more satisfactory and respectable to have the attendants composed of persons who were British subjects.

11. As we supposed that the Government must be fully aware of the situation and extent of the Factories at Canton, they must also be aware how inadequate they were to contain this number of Europeans, and further, from being open to the intrusion of the populace of a large city, continual riots and disturbances were inevitable; consequently, the carrying on the English trade at Canton with European attendants, was in fact impracticable. It was therefore submitted to the consideration of the Government, if their orders were to be carried into execution respecting the Chinese attendants, that they would appoint some other situation or place to which we might proceed, and there reside and carry on the trade.

12. No reply to our address has been received, or indeed has the letter been received by the officer to whom it was addressed. The objections to the native attendants may be nothing more than the practice of late years resorted to by the officers of Government, when it was their wish to harass or insult Europeans. We have also to notice, that the Nan hai Heen entered the Honourable Company's Factory, and it is probable, had any of the Chinese attendants been in the way, they might have been seized.

13. It is much to be regretted, that so extensive and so valuable a trade should be situated as the European trade to China is at present, liable to continual interruption at the caprice of an individual; at the same time the necessity of resisting these most unjust proceedings must be obvious, as by resistance alone can we hope to check them: had the Viceroy thought proper to issue these orders respecting Chinese attendants two months hence, the business of the season must have been for a time as completely interrupted as could have been effected by any direct stoppage of the trade.

14. The several addresses which we have been under the necessity of making on the subject of His Majesty's ships to the Viceroy, Fooyuen and Hoppo, have of late been rejected, and the Viceroy has most openly declared, that he will receive no communications from us, if written in Chinese characters, but that if we wish to address him, it must be in English. Considering this equivalent to a denying the right of remonstrating, it is our intention to persevere in writing to him in Chinese.

15. Notwithstanding the lofty tone assumed by the Government and their proceedings, we are rather disposed to believe that they will not persevere in their present unjust conduct, as we conceive, without some better grounds than they have at present, they would be unwilling that the interruption to the foreign trade should continue so long as to excite the notice of the Government at Pekin. From some discussions that have already taken place with an officer of Government, dispatched from Canton for the purpose, we are inclined to believe that the Viceroy is rather disposed to arrange the existing differences.

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16. It will afford us much pleasure to convey to your Honourable Committee the account of this discussion being terminated, at the same time your Honourable Committee must be fully aware how tedious and uncertain in duration these discussions with this Government have proved, and it remains with us to assure you, that our best exertions will be employed to preserve the real and permanent interests of the Honourable Company by a firm and decided resistance to the unjust attempts of the Provincial Government.

We have the honour to remain with respect, Honourable Sirs,

Your most faithful and obedient servants,

Macao, 1st October 1814.

(signed) *J. F. Elphinstone.*
Thos. Chas. Pattle.
Geo. Thos. Staunton.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee of Supracargoes at Canton, to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 4th December 1814.

Par. 5. WE regret having to inform your Honourable Court that the conduct of the Chinese Government has been such as to compel us to suspend all commercial intercourse, to prohibit all British ships entering the river, and to direct all British subjects to leave Canton.

6. After a tedious and anxious discussion, the Chinese Government acceded to such an adjustment of differences as enabled us, on the 25th of November, to permit the ships to proceed to Whampoa.

LETTER from the Select Committee at Canton to the Secret Committee of the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 4th December 1814.

Honourable Sirs,

Par. 1. WE had the honour to address your Honourable Committee last under date the 1st of October, when we stated that the differences that existed with the Chinese Government, and we regret to say that the hope then expressed of a speedy adjustment did not prove to be realized.

2. On the 4th October we received information of the seizure of the Linguist Ajeu, on the charge of having carried the portrait of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent to Pekin, and for a general attachment to, and services rendered to the English; numerous reports are in circulation of further violent and hostile intentions of the Viceroy and Fooyuen and it was further reported that Fatqua, or others of the Hong Merchants, were to be involved in the charges brought against the Linguist.

3. Our several addresses to the superior officers of the Canton Government were delivered at the city gates, and brought back to the Factory unopened; and finding the Viceroy was resolved on persevering in his measures of violence and hostility, and that all our efforts to obtain redress failed, and there appeared to be no other alternative or resource left to us than carrying our appeal to his Imperial Majesty at Pekin, directing at the same time all British subjects to quit Canton, and the English ships to leave Whampoa.

4. Fully aware of the serious inconvenience that must necessarily attend this measure to all the parties interested therein, we considered it proper to draw up a statement of the proceedings of the Canton Government, which had compelled us to adopt this extreme measure, for the purpose of being communicated to all British subjects, as containing a detail of the proceedings of the Government, we beg leave to refer your Honourable Committee to this document, which we forwarded on the 11th October to Mr. Molony, at Canton, directing either its immediate publication or its being withheld for a time, as the disposition of the Government might appear to require.

No. 1.

5. The suspension of the trade on our part, and the detaining the Honourable Company's ships at Chumpee, appeared to produce some effect. On the — October an official communication reached us from the Viceroy; in this the recapture of the Arabella was admitted to be proper, and that the ship had been an English vessel; in consequence the orders given by the Viceroy to stop the trade were rescinded.

6. Desirous

6. Desirous of availing ourselves of the opening that was given to preserve our commercial intercourse, without subjecting it to the delay that must necessarily attend a remonstrance to Pekin, we replied to the Merchants and proposed that the Viceroy should appoint an officer duly authorized to meet Sir George Staunton at Canton, who would proceed for the purpose of discussing and arranging the several points on which explanation was required, and previous to our permitting the ships to enter the river.

No. 2.

7. An answer was received from the Merchants, stating that the Viceroy acceded to our proposal. Sir George Staunton, accompanied by Sir Thomas Metcalfe and Mr. Davis, proceeded to Canton, on the 21st October, under instructions from us, a copy of which we have the honour to inclose.

8. A delay of some days took place before the Mandarin met Sir George Staunton; and on the 23d, that same officer, who had come to Macao respecting the Arabella, by name Foo-ta-hao-Yea, accompanied by the Quang-choo-foo, the Nan Hai Hien and Hyan Shan Hien, came to the Honourable Company's Factory.

9. At the first and at the several subsequent meetings that took place with Foo-ta-hao-Yea, the arrest of the Linguist Ayou was discussed; explanation was attempted to be evaded in various ways, when after considerable discussion an official declaration was obtained from the Viceroy that the arrest of the Linguist was not on account of any connection with the English, but in consequence of a breach of the law, for having once been in a menial situation, he had afterwards purchased rank.

Nov. 24, 26, 28, 29.

10. The Viceroy then appeared determined on breaking off all further negociation, and the Merchants intimated that no further communications would be received. This extraordinary resolution on the part of the Viceroy, left Sir George Staunton no other alternative than that of quitting Canton, which he left on the 10th November, and joining the Honourable Company's ships that had removed from Whampoa to below the second bar, previously carrying into execution the Committee's orders, in communicating the statement to all British subjects, and directing them to quit Canton.

11. On the 12th and 14th, deputations of the Hong Merchants, Pinqua and others, reached the Honourable Company's ships at that time, nearly at the Bocca Tigris, when they requested Sir George Staunton to suspend the further movements of the ships, and having given a written assurance that they were authorized by the Viceroy to say that a Mandarin should be appointed to discuss the remaining points in dispute, Sir George Staunton returned to Canton, and landed on the 15th.

12. It would appear that the Merchants had either exceeded their authority or were attempting to practice further deceit, for it was not until they found Sir George Staunton fully determined on again proceeding to the ships that their promise was fulfilled, when the same officer, Foo-ta-hao-Yea, accompanied by the Nan-hai-Hien came to the Factory on the 19th. At this and several subsequent meetings, the articles which we have the honour to inclose were discussed, and at length in great measure conceded.

21, 26, 82, 29.

No. 3.

13. Finding from the meeting of the 21st, that the Government acquiesced in the principal points in discussion, it was determined no longer to delay the ships, but to permit their going up to Whampoa and unloading; this was done in order to facilitate the proceedings of the Viceroy towards an adjustment, as while the ships remained at Chumpee and Lintin, and the trade was suspended, it appeared (as was in fact the case) that these measures had compelled the Viceroy to grant the concessions which had been obtained.

14. The Viceroy's Edict, confirming what has been officially communicated to Sir George Staunton by the two Mandarins, as the contents of this document, was expected to be delivered on the 2d December.

15. For the particulars respecting the arrest of the Linguist, and for the apprehension we entertained of this act of injustice, being but the prelude to further attacks on some of the Junior Merchants, and through them on the European trade, we beg leave to refer your Honourable Court to the several documents specified 4th, 5th and 6th.

16. It is to be remembered that during the last season the Merchants obtained from Pekin the sanction for re-establishing the Cohong system; aware that it would meet with our firm and decided opposition, the system was not attempted to be practically carried into effect during the last season, although the forms of

appreciating the cargoes of each ship on her arrival, and affixing prices to all articles of merchandize at their Consoo house was regularly gone through, and is indeed still continued.

17. Whatever may have been the ultimate designs of the parties in exciting the superior officers of Government to the measures they adopted towards us, or whatever may have been the views of the Government in resorting to these measures, we hope for the present they have been checked, if not defeated; and further, that the Viceroy and the officers of Government are now convinced, that in their conduct towards the English their measures of oppression and injustice (as they value the trade) must be restrained within certain bounds; from the experience and knowledge we possess of the Government, we are satisfied that their conviction, that their injustice will not be submitted to, is the only security we can possess for their attempts being discontinued.

18. Although the adjustment we have obtained is perhaps not so satisfactory as could have been wished, we hope sufficient has been granted to admit the trade being carried on during the present season without much interruption. By the freighted ship Earl Spencer, which we propose to load and despatch with as little delay as possible, we will transmit a detailed account of our proceedings with regard to the Canton Government. Your Honourable Court will be enabled to judge of the conduct of the Government, and of the Hong Merchants Pinqua and others, at the same time the serious difficulties we have to contend with in endeavouring to resist the oppressive acts of the Government, will be seen, and we trust that some effectual means to enable us more successfully to oppose these attempts will suggest themselves to your Honourable Committee.

19. It remains for us to express our high approval of the conduct and exertions of Sir George Staunton in the execution of his mission to Canton, and your Honourable Committee will not fail to appreciate the difficulties he had to encounter in the negociation.

We have the honour to be with the greatest respect, Honourable Sirs,
Your most faithful humble servants,

(signed) *J. T. Elphinstone.*
Thos. Chas. Pattle.

Macao, 4th December 1814.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 24th December 1814.

Par. 2. WE have now the satisfaction to inform your Honourable Committee that the unpleasant discussions in which we were engaged with the Canton Government, have terminated; that the cargoes of the ships are nearly delivered, and that several have commenced the lading of their teas.

3. By this conveyance we have the honour to transmit a full detail of our proceedings, and have to congratulate the Honourable Court and ourselves on as favourable a termination as perhaps could be expected, from a Government which cannot be brought to admit that foreign nations can stand on an equality with themselves, and appear frequently in their Edicts to refuse to acknowledge them even as free and independent.

4. The grievances under which Europeans labour in carrying on the commerce in China, are not singly of that flagrant kind, that the bare mention of any one of them can immediately show their weight and pressure, they must be considered collectively, and we feel confident that your Honourable Committee, on a perusal of the proceedings, will concur with us on the necessity of our having recourse to the measures adopted (under the peculiar and difficult circumstances in which we were placed), for effectually checking the unjust demands and pretensions of the Canton Government, and for giving due weight to our application for those explanations and disavowals which its daily accumulating insults and provocation (even if the consequent hazard to the trade itself were only considered) rendered indispensable.

5. The Edicts published in the early part of the season ordering His Majesty's ships to quit the coast, we conceived originated with those persons interested in the sailing of the American vessels, and although the Merchants ought to be fully aware, that we have no control over His Majesty's officers, and which indeed they have fully acknowledged, we are sorry to observe that no member of the Hong could be found, who had the inclination or sufficient influence, to explain this

this fully to the Mandarins. Looking therefore solely to the Committee, the Viceroy refused to receive the address of the Captain of the Doris, and considered us responsible for his acts. Although we could not but highly disapprove of the attack made by the boats of the Doris on the American schooner at Whampoa, and which through interested motives had been greatly exaggerated; we deemed it our duty to endeavour to palliate the circumstance, and while acknowledging it to be an error, ventured to promise that his Excellency should not again have occasion to complain of a similar act of offence. The affair, we were assured, was adjusted, and although during the subsequent discussion it was at times adverted to by the Mandarins, it cannot be considered as forming a prominent feature in the present differences, and was only alluded to (as a measure not to be defended by us), when they were at a loss to reply to a grievance brought forward on our part.

6. We conceive the origin of this discussion must be traced to a far different source; to the interested views of a few individuals endeavouring to place the European commerce at their sole command; that in fact it has been pending some time, and would have equally rendered necessary in a year or two the measures now adopted, even had we succeeded in averting them for the present season. The attempt in the preceding season to interfere with the nomination of the person appointed by the Honourable Court to conduct their affairs; the annual vexatious delays in our commercial intercourse on the most trivial occasions; the attempt of establishing a Cohong, for which the Imperial sanction was obtained in July 1813; the issue of an Edict withdrawing our native attendants and prohibiting any Chinese communicating with us; the seizure of a person supposed to be attached to our interests, and having been confidentially employed by us in a mission to Pekin; the returning of our addresses unopened; the demanding that in future all communications should be written in English (to be translated by the Hong Merchants), afford strong and concurring evidence of the real object in view.

7. In determining the mode to be adopted in discussing the several grievances with the Mandarins, the question arising out of the seizure of the Linguist employed by us on a mission to Pekin, appeared to demand our first consideration; and if our interference could avail, we were bound to exert it in favour of the prisoner. The judicial proceedings then pending rendered an early application necessary, and it was more particularly urgent to obtain a clear explanation of the crime alleged against him, and how far we were implicated, previous to any report of the affair being made, as it was important that no unfounded or unfavourable statement should be sent to Pekin. Your Honourable Committee have been already informed of the official declaration of the Viceroy, that the arrest of the Linguist was not on any account of his connection with the English. With the Edicts on this occasion we declared ourselves satisfied, with the exception of an offensive paragraph, which, although not withdrawn, was ultimately explained, and the insinuations it contained disavowed.

8. On a perusal of these Edicts and the arguments made use of by the Mandarins in the first conference with Sir George Staunton, it might appear to a person unacquainted with the Chinese Government, and the entire inconsistency of its practice with its professions, that the Committee had no cause of complaint, and that the Government were merely enforcing the laws against a delinquent, who having once been a menial servant, had obtained rank. The specious show of reason and argument assumed on all occasions by the officers of Government even in asserting a falsehood, must no doubt have the effect of inducing those who have not a local knowledge and experience to guide them, to judge more favourably of the Chinese character than they merit. We beg to refer your Honourable Committee to the report transmitted us by the Linguist of his examination, and his subsequent communications.

9. That our apprehensions of the intention of the Chinese Government to make some unfounded report against the English to Pekin, appears, by the account actually sent by the Viceroy, to be but too well grounded. It is to be observed, that this report was made at the very moment that official declarations, verbal and written, were given us that the punishment of Ayeu was in no way connected with the English; although, from this document (a copy of which we have privately received), it will be seen that it contains not only an implication of foreigners being connected with him, but a direct assertion that the Linguist was concerned with us in treasonable practices.

10. We do not apprehend that an assertion thrown out at random of so absurd and improbable a nature, and wholly unsupported by proof, will be attended

with any evil consequences, at least as far as directly affects foreigners; but it is desirable to be prepared for every event; and in this point of view, the strong and ample disavowal which we have extracted from this Government of every kind of allegation against us, under the Viceroy's own seal, appear doubly important; and, in the event of a reference to Pekin on this subject at any future period from England, afford, we presume, the most effectual means of rebutting the charge, and bringing the misrepresentations and injustice of the Provincial Government to merited punishment.

11. The concession of the second point discussed is most satisfactory, and we are confident will be highly gratifying to your Honourable Committee. The free communication granted with the superior officers of Government by their promise to receive our addresses in the Chinese language without previous explanation with the Merchants (with the single exception of an English copy accompanying it in the event of announcing an embassy) will, we trust, prevent the vexatious delays of a stoppage of chops, when the Hoppo officers shall be endeavouring to extort undue fees (by which acts our fleets are so frequently delayed), and prove a sufficient check to the unjust and illiberal insinuations respecting our conduct thrown out by those men interested in preventing a direct communication between us and the Government.

12. On the point of Chinese attendants, it appears that the prohibition of employing servants under a certain denomination has existed since the year 1740, and having received the Emperor's sanction, could not be repealed by the authorities in Canton. For the revival of this question and further regulations we are indebted to the hostility of the Viceroy, Pè, who proposed the re-establishment of the Cohong system, and to whose conduct, together with that of those partizans he left in Canton, we may attribute the vexatious delays that have for some years occurred, as well as the more serious detention of our ships in the present season.

13. Although this point has not been so satisfactorily explained as we could wish, the Government, satisfied probably that the objections were made on vexatious and oppressive grounds, or that the alternative of our having so great a number of European attendants was, in fact, impracticable at Canton, have issued an authenticated document for the employment of Compradores, and as many servants under particular denominations as our Factory may require; we will therefore hope that the Government, satisfied their unjust measures will not be submitted to, no interference on the subject will again be attempted, and that the measure of prohibiting natives serving us, and ordering their seizure, will not again be resorted to.

14. On the explanation of the minor points, although less satisfactory, there is only one which appears likely to create any difficulty, which is, the necessity of applying for a license for boats passing the Bogue. This places the Compradores of the ships of war at the mercy of the officers commanding that fort, who, dreading the consequence of the impatience of the officers losing the tide by unnecessary detention, may be induced to pay a fee in some instance which will become an established custom, and a constant pretext for extortion. The verbal communication however of the Merchants on this subject, induce us to hope the regulation will not be rigorously enforced.

15. We beg to draw the attention of your Honourable Committee to the anxiety shown to recall Sir George Staunton, as affording a proof that, however the Chinese Government may declare in their edicts that no benefit arises to the Celestial Empire from the foreign trade, and that it is only permitted from pure benevolence, yet when endangered by their unjust proceedings, properly and firmly resisted, it will be found they are most fully aware of the reciprocal advantages of commerce, and most anxious for its preservation.

16. We hope that the steps taken this season will have the effect of preventing the officers of the Canton Government from again entering into a course of violent and hostile measures without more fully satisfying themselves of the grounds on which they are proceeding; and as it will be our anxious endeavour not to allow them a pretext, we may further hope that the inconveniences and delays which have of late occurred will not again be experienced. At any event, we trust that we shall not in future find the representatives of the East India Company stigmatized as staters of untruth, and His Majesty's officers with the name of plunderers; that we shall be allowed to call our employers honourable, and the King of England an independent Sovereign. The admission by the Chinese Government of our having other duties to perform than mere commercial transactions, as recorded

on the Edict received on the 28th ultimo, is highly satisfactory, as placing us on that footing which enable the Mandarins to communicate directly with us, and not to require the intervention of the Hong Merchants.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee of Supracargoes at Canton to the Honourable the Secret Committee of the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 16th January 1815.

Par. 16. WE have to request the attention of your Honourable Committee to the several communications from the Linguist Ayow. They contain generally, we believe, a correct account of proceedings of the officers of Government, and the true causes that have excited them to the measures they adopted towards us. They are a further melancholy proof of the total and entire absence of all truth, justice or mercy from Chinese tribunals, and where the undue influence of money is applied, all chance of a fair trial ceases to the unfortunate person accused. Letters of Oct. 16, Nov. 8.

17 This cannot be illustrated more strongly than in the statement transmitted to us by Ayow of the proceedings of the officers of Government towards him from the day of his arrest to the end of October. The Nam Hoymen is accounted a good and upright magistrate, and far exceeding his predecessors in these qualities, yet this officer, although fully satisfied of the Linguist's innocence, so much so as to be about to discharge him, on the application of Pinqua and Chunqua most readily promises to punish Ayow publicly, and before all the Merchants, provided they make a statement to him.

18. Your Honourable Committee will observe from his letters that the terrors of the tortures to which he was now subject, and the laudable and honourable motive of not involving other persons, whom he might be required to accuse in the midst of his sufferings, determined the Linguist Ayow to put a period to his existence and sufferings by taking opium. We have the satisfaction to say that his intention was discovered, and in time to prevent any bad effects from poison.

19. It will be satisfactory to your Honourable Committee to be informed that the Linguist has not experienced any bad treatment of late, and that such accommodation as a prison affords (a separate apartment to himself) has been obtained for him.

29. Under this date we have recorded the statement which it is said the Viceroy has made to Pekin respecting the Linguist Ayow. We received it privately, and have to remark that neither Pinqua, Chunqua or the Hong Merchants have publicly put us in possession of this document, or indeed have they acknowledged to us their being informed of any report having been made to his Imperial Majesty. 11 December.

30. In the document we have received it does not appear that the charge against Ayow is of a serious nature, or such as to merit the punishment proposed, (banishment to Elee,) or to have required being submitted to the consideration of the Emperor. It is, at the same time, very probable that a much more unfavourable representation has been made to Pekin, and in this case the punishment of Ayow will be more severe. Of this we are at present unable to judge; from the reply from Pekin, and the proceedings of the Canton Government respecting Ayow, we may be enabled to ascertain what has been reported.

31. We must remark, in the report we have received, that connection with the English and the English Chief are stated as his offence. This was totally inconsistent with the expressed stipulations acceded to by Foo-ta-lo-yea, under the Viceroy's authority, in the conferences held with Sir G. Staunton, and it proves sufficiently that no dependence whatever can be placed on the assertions of the officers of this Government; and on the result, as it affects Ayow and involves us, we must determine on the line of conduct to be adopted in making a representation or otherwise to his Imperial Majesty.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee of Supracargoes at Canton to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors, dated 6th February 1815.

Par. 5. SINCE the date of our last Address, the Emperor's answer, in reply to the Statement made by the Canton Government respecting the Linguist Ayow, has been

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been received into Canton, we have obtained a copy of this document, a translation of which we have the honour to forward.

6. From this your Honourable Committee will perceive that the punishing the Linguist by banishment to Elu is confirmed, and that from the wording of the reply ample power is given to the Canton Government to charge and punish any individual for the offence of serving or having secret intercourse with foreigners; and from the documents already transmitted, your Honourable Committee must be fully aware with what facility any charge may be brought against an individual; and his own confession by the torture will be obtained, as the wishes of the Mandarin may direct.

7. From the *ex parte* statement of the Canton Government, perhaps we had no just ground to expect that any other reply could be made from Pekin; at the same time we must observe, that the usual practice of submitting these cases to the (Board) Supreme Council was on this occasion dispensed with. From this we infer some unfair advantage has been taken by interested persons here; and aware with what facility money may be applied, we are inclined to believe that this has been employed to secure the sentence against the Linguist being confirmed, which, had it proceeded through the customary forms, and under the Superior Council, might have been rejected.

8. It appears from this document, that apprehension from the Christians is still prevalent. The serious insurrections that took place during the last year were endeavoured to be attributed to the Christians. It perhaps can excite no surprise that the officers of Government should generally, throughout the Empire, concur in endeavouring to find some other cause than their own malpractices and misgovernment in these discontents.

9. In compliance with the directions contained in the Imperial answer, the Linguist Ayow was summoned before the Fooyuen and other principal officers of the Canton Government. He was interrogated as to his being a Christian, which he had no difficulty in denying, and performed the ceremonies required of trampling on the Cross without hesitation. No further questions were proposed, and he was remanded to prison to await the final order from Pekin, when he will set out on his journey to the place of his banishment, Elu, supposed to be situated nearly north of Nepaul.

10. No further official communication have as yet passed between the Canton Government and our Committee on this subject. It was understood that the Fooyuen was most inimically disposed, and much inclined to avail himself of the latitude given by the expression of "rigorous inquiry," to extort some further matter on which he could ground an attack on us, or on some of the Merchants or persons connected with the foreign trade; but we are given to understand he found his wishes were not seconded by either the Viceroy or other Mandarins, who probably, from having been longer in Canton, were better acquainted with the consequences; and having experienced our firmness in resisting any oppressive measure, may have conceived it more politic to allow the affair to drop.

11. Having no real or just grounds for their proceedings, we believe that if this conduct was fairly stated to the Pekin Government, it would be condemned, not from any sense of humanity or compassion to an injured individual, but on the score of policy, in endangering a commerce so generally beneficial to the provinces they are appointed to govern. We are, however, unwilling to intrude our complaints to Pekin, as they will come with so much more effect from your Honourable Committee or from Bengal. We are rather disposed to permit the affair to remain for the present; but as no reliance can be placed on the officers of this Government, and as intrigues may always be at work to excite them against foreigners and foreign trade, we must await, in order to ascertain what may be the real intentions and designs of the Fooyuen and his instigators; and in the event of further attack, there will remain the resource of carrying our remonstrances to Pekin.

12. Your Honourable Committee will no doubt appreciate the difficulties and the anxiety that must attend our differences and discussions with this Government. We feel, however, that they are unavoidable; for on our firmly resisting their unjust attempts can we alone depend on these attempts ceasing to be made. We are confident our resistance at the early part of this season operated in preventing any further measure being commenced against the foreign trade.

(14.)—RESPECTING THE COMPANY'S SHIP GENERAL HEWITT.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 4th Nov. 1816.

Par. 1. WE have fully detailed to the Honourable Court the discussions in which we have been engaged by the hostile measures pursued by the Viceroy of Canton, in the first instance, towards the General Hewitt, and the determined refusal of the officers of Government to receive or reply to our addresses, and lastly, the arbitrary and unjustifiable act of seizing our Compradore, maltreating him in a manner used towards the lowest criminals, upon an absurd accusation that he showed Europeans the way to the city, or at least that he, as residing in our house, must know the criminal person.

2. Whenever the officers of Government are unable to attach any blame to the Committee itself, they resort to some tyrannical measure towards the natives in our employ; and this is the sole crime of which they could venture to accuse the innocent sufferer. We do most confidently hope your Honourable Committee will consider that it is our bounden duty to protect the persons in our employ; and at the same time that we hope for the approbation of your Honourable Court for the forbearance shown in the present instance, when our ships unladen are under their control, and the particular circumstance of the Embassy being in this country. We do also trust your Honourable Committee will deem it our duty, at the close of this Season, or the commencement of the ensuing, to bring to some final decision the two essential parts of protection to natives in our employ, and the reception of our addresses, with replies properly addressed to the Committee, taking, for the basis of our negociations, the convention signed by the present Viceroy in 1814.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 8th Nov. 1816.

Par. 3. ON our arrival in Canton we found that the General Hewitt was detained below the Bogue, and one of the Hong Merchants deputed to examine and inquire whether she had actually conveyed the presents to Tring Sing. This measure was asserted to be necessary, in consequence of a report from a Mandarin at Macao, which stated that she had proceeded to a port on the coast, and delivered over the presents to the other vessels. We lost no time in addressing the Viceroy, assuring him she had proceeded to the port of Trin Sing, landed the presents, and, in pursuance of orders received in England, had returned to Canton for a cargo of teas; and we expressed our anxiety for an early despatch.

4. In the mean time, through the intercession of the Hong Merchant deputed to the Bogue, and Captain Campbell's exertions, the General Hewitt was brought above the second bar, but surrounded by armed boats, all communication forbid, and, at first, provisions denied; the latter prohibition was in two days removed. It became our duty to remonstrate against such proceedings, and we should have been fully justified in resorting to the strongest measures in our power for removing this insult to the British flag; but keeping in view your Honourable Court's orders to avoid, at present, all altercation with the officers of the Government, and anxious not to place his Excellency, Lord Amherst, in any unpleasant situation at this place, we addressed a moderate letter to the Viceroy, pointing out the indignity which we conceived was offered to a ship sent on a friendly mission, and again solicited the usual permission for lading the General Hewitt.

5. During the time that the translating of this chop required, we were distressed at the severe treatment which the Merchants received, from an assertion that they had misrepresented the orders of the Emperor. This arose from a Chinese character being used in our letter for Canton, which, strictly translated, means the city, and the waters running by it, from whence it was absurdly asserted we required the vessel being brought to the city wall. We did not hesitate a moment in correcting the error, by addressing the Viceroy, but this explanation he refused to receive; and though we declined addressing any other Mandarin, we readily proposed to write a letter to the Merchants themselves, which relieved them from further trouble. This mode of attacking the natives concerned with us, for any errors committed, will no doubt appear to your Honourable Court to require most serious attention; and we are about to bring to the notice of your Honourable Court a most aggravated and unprovoked attack by this mode of procedure.

6. The Merchants, for some time, refused to convey our addresses to the Mandarins, and, when induced to carry them, returned them as being refused. This act, in direct violation of the Convention agreed to and signed by the present Viceroy in 1814, would of itself have authorized strong measures; we still, however, under the peculiar circumstances of the Embassy, forebore proceeding to those lengths which this breach of faith would justify, but endeavoured, by every moderate means in our power, to enforce the reception of our addresses. The Merchants had obtained the Hoppo's sanction to landing the stores for His Majesty's ships; but much delay occurred after their promise of its being granted. They asserted, if we would assure the Hoppo that the General Hewitt should remain till the Ambassador arrived, that her lading would be commenced. On this we could place but little reliance; however, they were assured, in return, that such a request, coming from either Mandarin, by letter, would be taken into consideration; and they were led to understand that it might be considered of sufficient importance to induce us to deviate from the positive orders of a speedy despatch. At length our second address was received, and an Edict published to the Merchants, which, we were informed, was the only reply we were to expect.

7. On perusal of this Edict, we were pleased to find that the Viceroy had abstained from the severe and haughty language of which in late years we have had so much reason to complain. At the same time, the mode of replying to our address, and the concluding order to the Merchants, enabling them at all times to refuse conveying them, were points of such material consequence to the interests of the Honourable Company, that we felt ourselves compelled to convey our sentiments to the Viceroy.

8. It evidently appeared to us by the tenor of the Viceroy's Edict, that he by no means felt himself justified in his proceedings towards the General Hewitt, and although we apprehended, if there was any truth in the assertion of his having solicited the orders of the Emperor on the lading of the ship, that he could not yield this point, we determined on moving the General Hewitt to Whampoa, as the only means of relieving her from the disgraceful situation in which she was placed, and of removing the guard boats. Captain Campbell was apprized of our intention; but previous to issuing the orders, we addressed the Hoppo, informing him that, in compliance with the Emperor's wishes for that ship proceeding to Canton, we had directed the commander to bring her to Whampoa, the anchoring place of this port; and we further took the opportunity of convincing his Excellency, that though loaded, she should remain till the arrival of the Ambassador, but if that was protracted to an unreasonable time, we trusted their Excellencies would consider the orders under which we acted.

9. The intent of this letter was frustrated by a refusal to receive it, and Captain Campbell, by the apparent fair promises of the Mandarin guarding his ship, was induced to delay his moving. In the first instance, the delay was regretted, but under the peculiar circumstances of the case, we approved of Captain Campbell's caution. These delays enabled the Mandarins, as will be seen on reference to our Consultations, to form such a plan as to make it appear hereafter that they themselves directed the ship to move to Whampoa; but it is to be observed, the Mandarin deputed on this occasion was not to grant his sanction till he was convinced Captain Campbell could not disobey the orders of the Committee. The similarity of this attempt to influence commanders of ships to disobey the orders of the Committee, to that resorted to with the country trade in 1814, is too strong to require any comments, and no doubt will so forcibly appear to your Honourable Court, as to insure a repetition of the orders of this season, which we with pleasure take the opportunity of acknowledging have been willingly attended to by commanders of all vessels trading to this port.

10. The General Hewitt's moving to Whampoa was a satisfactory object gained, as there could no longer exist any pretence for guarding her by armed boats. Her proceeding to Whampoa without opposition from the Chinese, was pleasing; at the same time, we had no cause on this occasion to apprehend resistance, from a conviction that the Viceroy had exceeded his authority. We are not so confident that your Honourable Court will approve of our orders to return a fire; but on a deliberate consideration of the peculiar case in which the Hewitt was placed, denied by the Chinese to belong to the merchant service, but as having accompanied the Embassy, was in their estimation a King's ship, we do trust your Honourable Court will consider us authorized to direct resistance in the event

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of an attack, and we should be wanting in our duty if we did not point out to your Honourable Court, that it is only from a belief that we dare not return a shot, that could ever induce the Viceroy, on his own responsibility, to order such treatment.

11. Our address to the Viceroy on the movement of the General Hewitt, had been four days in the Merchants' possession, and from most trifling excuses its presentation was delayed. At length this address, together with one to the Hoppo, were returned, and it was declared that these officers would not receive them. As far as concerned the General Hewitt the delivery of this address was not material, further than the object of placing our sentiments and feelings on the records, if preserved, in China; but as the letters more especially entered into a defence of our conduct, and required some reply on the point of our addresses being received and answered, we deemed it our duty to proceed to the city gates, and in a few hours Captain Jameson assembled a party, and delivered the letter to a Mandarin at the gate of the Viceroy's palace.

12. We beg here to express our acknowledgments to Captain Jameson and the Commanders who accompanied him, for their ready compliance with our wishes, and for the able and discreet manner in which they were carried into effect. We have particularly to notice the conduct of Mr. Bannerman, who volunteered his services, and whose knowledge of the language proved highly beneficial on this occasion. We have further to express our satisfaction at the progress made by Mr. Bannerman, whose assiduity in endeavouring to accomplish this desirable object is highly pleasing to us and creditable to himself.

13. Having fully explained to your Honourable Court the measures pursued on this occasion, which we trust will be considered as carried to the utmost line of forbearance, we have to bring to the notice of your Honourable Court a most provoked and unjustifiable attack on us in the person of our Compradore. We must acknowledge it has not been unusual for the Mandarins to endeavour to terrify, or perhaps rather to work on the feelings of the Committee, by similar acts of tyranny on their own subjects on several occasions; but when committed in direct violation of the convention agreed to in 1814 by the present Viceroy, it will afford a convincing proof of what little reliance can be placed on the Edicts of the officers of the Canton Government, much less on the promises conveyed to us verbally by the Merchants.

14. Our Compradore was summoned to the city, and two Merchants deputed to the President, to apprize him of the circumstance. In the presence of these Merchants, who must have been well aware of the fate that awaited him, the Compradore, conscious of his innocence, declared his wish to answer the summons. In a few hours he was beaten and tortured in order to draw from him a confession of what native had shown the Europeans the way to the Viceroy's house. A reference to records of the frequent visits made to the gates and within the city, would prove the fallacy of such an attempt to cover deliberate insult to the Committee, which the Mandarins do not fail to resort to whenever they are unable to attach any blame to the Committee itself. If such a proceeding is not firmly resisted, it will become necessary to forego all communications with the officers of Government. The Merchants are directed not to convey our letters, and when carried by Europeans to the city, directed there to be received by the laws of China. Our Compradore, entrusted with the charge of our treasury, is seized, beaten and tortured in a manner used only to the lowest criminal. Under these circumstances, your Honourable Court will perceive no respectable Chinese can be found to serve us.

15. We have endeavoured by every possible means to obtain his release, but it is with regret we state they have been ineffectual, and that the Merchants have evinced an indifference on this occasion highly discreditable to themselves. We have however attended to their suggestion to remain quiet, under a belief that the object in view might be obtained: in the mean time, however, we deemed it necessary to prepare the Cornwall as a packet, that, in the event of trade being stopped, we might secure a conveyance for a statement of facts, to relieve your Honourable Court from the apprehensions occasioned by private reports. Delay was convenient in order to complete the cargo of the Cornwall, and that object being accomplished, we have applied for the port clearance, stating as the motives for this despatch, the necessity of apprizing the high authorities in England of the cause of detention of the General Hewitt.

16. On a review of our proceedings, we do confidently hope your Honourable Court will be satisfied that forbearance has been carried to the utmost extent,

and that an anxiety to prevent embarrassment to his Excellency Lord Amherst, will be deemed by your Honourable Court a sufficient reason for not resorting to such measures as are in our power, and which we believe might have brought this discussion to a close. What further remarks may be requisite on this subject, we shall have the honour to address in our Secret Department, and proceed to the details necessary on the despatch of the Cornwall.

21. Since writing the above paragraphs we received an Edict of the Viceroy, a translation of which is forwarded in the extracts from our Consultations, and will no doubt evince to your Honourable Court the difficulty under which we labour in all negociations with a government so void of truth in all their proceedings, and whose Edicts and actions on no occasion accord. Your Honourable Court will observe the declaration of our address having been presented by the Merchants, at the moment that our Compradore is still in confinement, and has undergone the severest treatment from false accusation of having conducted Europeans into the city. It is however a conclusive argument, that we committed no error in proceeding to the city with our address, as it would have been readily seized as an act of delinquency had it been contrary to the laws of China. The describing the General Hewitt as lying at the second bar, or rather affecting ignorance of her being at Whampoa, is a convincing proof, added to many, of the statements that are made on all transactions with foreigners. Should any reply be necessary, which however at the present moment with some prospect of commencing the lading of the General Hewitt, may be doubtful, it will require much consideration, and it only remains to assure your Honourable Court, that however we must feel the continued insults in refusing our addresses, and the style of replying to them, together with the unjust seizure and detention of our Compradore, we shall exert the utmost forbearance to prevent any embarrassment to the Embassy during its residence in Canton. We beg however to suggest to your Honourable Court a letter from His Majesty's Ministers to the Viceroy, warning him that a repetition of such acts must tend to break the bonds of amity so essential to both empires.

22. We have now the pleasure to announce to your Honourable Court, that the Merchants have this morning presented an Edict, stating that a reply has been received from his Imperial Majesty, granting the required cargo for the Hewitt, but clogged with provisoes from the Viceroy himself of an unpleasant nature. It is demanded that we should write an address, which may be considered as a bond for the detention of the General Hewitt till the arrival of the Ambassador. We have assured the Merchants, that our word having been once passed, as has been done in our former letters to the Viceroy and Hoppo, we shall never deviate, and that they may safely enter themselves into any security on this point. With respect to a positive injunction to load the returned presents in the Hewitt, we have informed them that their shipment will depend entirely on the wishes of the Ambassador. But we have peremptorily refused to write any letter dictated to us by those officers of Government, who have declined receiving our several addresses, and obstinately persisted in not acknowledging us by replies, as agreed to in the year 1814. In this point we feel confident your Honourable Court will approve our steady resistance; and the conduct of the Merchants this morning, throwing every impediment in the way of reconciliation, was such as to compel us expressly to state, that the present discussion has been carried to a length, which their personal influence might have prevented, had not the two most wealthy Merchants conceived it an opportunity of once more making themselves the channel of communication between Europeans and the Government.

EXTRACT LETTER, in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors, dated 4th December 1816.

Par. 8. WE have the pleasure to inform your Honourable Committee, that our Compradore has at length been liberated, after a confinement of 35 days; he is much disfigured, and evidently suffers great pain from the severe treatment he endured. The Linguist was released at the same time, but the person called Atong is still in confinement. We called on the Merchants to know if this man was detained in consequence of his visit to the President, and they assured us on inquiry that his further detention arose from several serious complaints which had been preferred

preferred against him by the village in which he resides; of the nature of these complaints however they declared themselves ignorant. It is with regret we observe that we do not consider ourselves in any way indebted to the Merchants, at least the three seniors, for this release; the apathy shown by them throughout this occurrence would lead to a confirmation of the accusation against them in having been the primary cause of this seizure.

9. Your Honourable Committee will observe in our Secret Diary of the 24th November, a serious cause of apprehension in the information which we have received of a private order from the Viceroy to the police magistrate, to seize several persons in our employ. We felt it our duty to prepare a letter on this subject, but have received such assurances from the Merchants that lead us to hope this severe measure will not be pursued at present; but at the same time we fear that, notwithstanding the convention signed by the present Viceroy in 1814, it will be resorted to whenever the officers of Government may find an opportunity of annoying. Unwilling to enter into discussions unnecessarily, we have withheld our remonstrance, and as a change is to take place in one of the principal officers concerned in this measure, we trust the Merchants may prove successful in withdrawing the warrant.

10. A statement of our Public Proceedings, as regarded the General Hewitt, was forwarded to the Honourable Court by the Cornwall. Our endeavours to remove the stigma thrown on a vessel attached to an important mission, and to carry into effect our orders in an early despatch of that ship, will, we hope, meet the approbation of your Honourable Committee. We have since that time proceeded quietly in the lading; but on the 2d instant the Merchants delivered an Edict, which they informed us required a written assurance from the Committee that she should wait the return of the Ambassador, and that room should be left for the presents; the former demand intimated a doubt of the Committee fulfilling their engagements, which could not be considered but as insulting and unwarrantable in men who must know that the Committee had never deviated from their word. With respect to the presents, it had been fully explained to them, that whatever directions the Ambassador gave would be attended to, and they had been desired to state the number of ships that were at our disposal. In reply they declared they had signed a bond, stating every particular, as directed by the Committee; but the officers of Government were apprehensive that when loaded, the General Hewitt would be despatched; this insinuation was offensive, but we stated that when we were satisfied of the contents of the Edict, it would be replied to.

11. We were apprehensive, by the manner of the Senior Merchants, that more was implied than expressed by them, and in the evening, the teas ordered for the General Hewitt were stopped. This was an act that broke every engagement; and we prepared a short letter to the Viceroy, observing, that as the orders of his Imperial Majesty were disobeyed, it became our duty to follow the instructions of our Honourable Employers, and we had therefore to request the grand chop, unless she was permitted to continue her lading. We apprized the Merchants of the contents, and called on them to use their exertions to prevent any further discussion. They were aware of the reasons of the delay in replying to the Edict, as all persons in our employ were fearful of attending; but whilst it was preparing it was their duty to prevent all irritating steps in their power, by proper explanation, to fulfil our wishes. Puankhequa appeared to acknowledge the justice of our request, but Pinqua would not coincide, as they were of opinion no further cargo would be permitted unless our bond was given. We presented this short address, and if their endeavours failed with the Hoppo, they might present it as our reply to the Edict. We learn to-day the letter has been received by the Viceroy.

12. We should incur great risk of committing ourselves did we venture an opinion on the reply to this letter; but as the General Hewitt is not far short of her cargo, we trust your Honourable Committee would approve of the measure of despatch, should the credit of the nation require such a step. It only remains for us to assure your Honourable Committee, that it would not be resorted to but in the event of meeting such hostile language or treatment as would render further forbearance censurable. And we would wish to impress on your Honourable Committee, that we do not at present apprehend any serious consequences.

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EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 19th December 1816.

Par. 3. IT is with satisfaction we report to your Honourable Court, that a full lading has been permitted to the General Hewitt, on the condition that she remains till the arrival of his Excellency Lord Amherst. The delay that has occurred on this occasion has arisen from the highly reprehensible conduct of the Senior Merchants, who, in a most insulting manner, refused to place confidence in our word. The Viceroy required a reply to his Edict, and the further security from the Merchants, that the General Hewitt should be detained till the return of the Ambassador. The reply to the Viceroy's Edict was instantly prepared, and every assurance was given to the Merchants that it should be delivered to them whenever the offensive measure of stopping the teas ordered to be shipped for the Hewitt was removed, a measure which we believe originated in their fears; but if it was determined by the officers of Government that no more cargo should be permitted, it became our duty to despatch that ship immediately.

4. After a discussion of several days, when the Merchants found us determined in our resolution of despatch, a proposal was made by one of them of an additional paragraph to our letter, the purport of which had been privately explained to him. The object proposed to us was, the requesting the favour of an immediate despatch of the Hewitt, and a promise that two vessels should be detained for whatever articles his Excellency the Ambassador might wish to send on board. This was readily admitted, but they were apprised that we did not bind ourselves to ship the presents. A proposition was at length made by the Merchants, whether, if all the forms of shipping the teas in dispute were accomplished, we would deliver the reply directly into their hands. This having been the sole preliminary required by us, was readily assented to, and we hoped no further discussion would be necessary.

5. The Merchants, however, returned with our letter and proposed several alterations, which seemed suggestions of their own; and though apparently trifling in their nature, might have been turned to improper use; these were therefore refused. In this conversation, the intent of the Merchant in proposing the additional paragraph was discovered; and had we been dependent on the Chinese for our translations, as in former days, when this Merchant conducted the negociations with the officers of Government, we should have been made to promise that the Hewitt should await the arrival of the Ambassador; but that if his Excellency despatched her immediately, two ships would be detained for the presents. This prevarication and attempt to overreach the Committee led to an unpleasant discussion; however, we could but regret we were deceived in the support that had been promised by him, and that the paragraph had been inserted. Unless, therefore, we were permitted to withdraw this request, no alteration could be made in the letter.

6. The Senior Merchants assembled the Juniors, and made a formal visit to the Factory, the purport of which the President had previously learnt was to obtain fresh assurances that the Committee were sincere in their intention of detaining the Hewitt. Having also been apprized that the Viceroy was satisfied with our reply, and only required the security of the Merchants for its strict observance, their hesitation on this point (which had led to the stoppage of the teas) was an insult that called for the strongest marks of our displeasure; and the President trusts your Honourable Court will approve of his refusing to converse further on this subject, or to summon the Committee. He desired them, Mr. Urmston being present, to obey the commands of the Viceroy, or to present the usual application to the Hoppo for the port clearance, which he delivered to the Head Merchant. They declined the latter alternative, and proceeded to the city to sign the required bonds.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 19th December 1816.

Par. 1. WE had last the honour to address your Honourable Committee on the 4th November, and it is with satisfaction we report that our endeavours to obtain a full cargo for the Honourable Company's ship General Hewitt, have been successful.

2. It

2. It had been our intention on finding the arrival of the Ambassador did not take place at the time appointed by the Viceroy, to request His Excellency would grant permission for the sailing of the Hewitt, on our pledging that two vessels should be reserved for whatever articles his Excellency the Ambassador might wish to be shipped. We were precipitated into this measure by a similar proposition being made by one of the Merchants, and his anxiety for its insertion in our letter led us to hope a favourable result. The turn, however, that was intended to be given to such application is fully detailed in our Public Letter by this opportunity, and most clearly evinces the necessity of encouraging, by every means, an obtainment of a perfect knowledge of the Chinese language.

Company's Ship General Hewitt.

(15.)—RESPECTING HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP ALCESTE.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 8th November 1816.

Par. 23. WE have now to report to your Honourable Court the safe arrival of the Alceste and Lyra on the 2d instant off Lintin. By letters received from Captain Maxwell this evening, we have reason to apprehend that the same hostile measures are proceeding with His Majesty's ships as was adopted with the General Hewitt; however, as it is probable that as the discussion will occur without the Bogue, no material obstruction is to be apprehended to our concerns, and we trust in a short time to be enabled to despatch to your Honourable Court the early ships of the season with more authentic information.

His Majesty's Ship Alceste.

LETTER from Sir Theophilus T. Metcalfe, Bart., President of the Select Committee of Supracargoes at Canton, to Thomas Reid, Esq., Chairman of the Honourable Court of Directors, dated Canton, the 16th Nov. 1816.

(Private.)

Dear Sir,

THE American Consul called on me late this evening, to say, a fast sailing American vessel would be despatched per Amsterdam to-morrow. To write a public opinion on the result of Wednesday night would be committing ourselves; but as exaggerated reports now flying about will reach England, it will prove satisfactory to you to receive some particulars from me. On the arrival of the Alceste, a Mandarin with a blue button went on board at Lintin, stating himself to be deputed from the Viceroy; he was civilly received. Captain Maxwell requested him to convey his wishes to the Viceroy for entering the Bogue, and fair promises were given. In a day or two another Mandarin visited the Alceste, who declared himself to be deputed by the Viceroy. On Captain Maxwell observing he had already communicated with an officer of rank, who had promised to convey his wishes to the Viceroy, he was informed the first Mandarin was not authorized in what he had done or said. Captain Maxwell instantly requested some proof by which he might ascertain on what authority he himself visited the ship. The reply was given in strong assurances, and as a proof, he would instantly return to the Viceroy, and bring such an answer. Captain Maxwell desired him to fix a day, and he named five days hence, to which the Captain objected, as being too long, but at length agreed, and describing his ship in distress from bad weather, stated the necessity of proceeding into smooth water within the Bogue. This man departed, promising to return with a reply. Captain Maxwell remained quiet six days, receiving many insults to the British flag. Provisions were only to be procured by the Compradores at night bringing them on board. Armed boats, though keeping some distance, were stationed round her. These removed themselves in a few days, but were met again near Chumpee. The time being expired, the Alceste weighed anchor, and proceeded to Chumpee. She found stationed here a flotilla of boats, the Commander of which sent a low Chinese to order him to anchor, or a gun would be fired. The words had scarcely passed his mouth when the threat was put in execution, and they fired several guns without shot. Captain Maxwell received it as a salute, and returned it with blank cartridge. Shortly, however, shot passed by from junks and the fort. You will readily, sir, conceive the feelings of a Captain of a British man-of-war, who in this spot was committing no act that

could give offence, for the ship was below the place where the men-of-war usually anchor. One shot fired over the Chinese Commandant's head silenced these warriors, and Captain Maxwell feeling pity for the men, acting most probably under strict orders, did not continue. The wind failing, and tide nearly down, the Alceste was compelled to anchor; and here I must observe, that a Merchant told me this morning that this step was reported to be in consequence of the active exertions of the squadron. In the evening the wind proving favourable, Captain Maxwell weighed anchor, for having found the Chinese so determinedly hostile, it became necessary to support the honour of the flag, and to maintain the privilege granted to the Lion, by instantly proceeding within the Bogue. The moment she weighed, a signal was made from the boats, and lights displayed at all the forts, with a sharp cannonade from four forts, containing probably 80 or 100 guns, two of which have been lately erected. Several shot struck the Alceste, two of which are at present in her bows, and it was impossible to carry forbearance any further. Captain Maxwell when sufficiently near the forts, about half a musket shot, poured in his broadside; the lights disappeared in a moment, and little more was heard from those on the starboard side; but a fort on the larboard, against which the guns could not be brought to bear, continued its fire for some time. The Alceste anchored at second bar without further molestation, and Captain Maxwell arrived in Canton this morning. Thus far is a short statement of the movement of the Alceste, which will undoubtedly give rise to many reports. We have now from the inferior Chinese accounts from 3 to 40 men killed; but from the manner in which the Senior Merchants behaved yesterday, when they declared their ignorance of any firing having taken place, and their readiness to place the ship in any port, if she would retire in one day, I am led to believe they will not admit the firing, and that they would willingly hush up the encounter. This England cannot consent to, and believe me, sir, the acts of a Viceroy will ever continue arbitrary and unjust, if not properly resisted. The trade only requires a check on his conduct, and the extortion of other Mandarins at Canton, and I trust the cautious, judicious and firm conduct of Captain Maxwell on this occasion, will lay the foundation of placing the Company's trade on a steady footing, and receive that support from the Ministers and Court of Directors as will convince the Chinese the blood of Lord Anson still flows in the veins of Englishmen. I might be told, as President of the Factory, these are not the sentiments I should promulgate; in reply, I assert they are the sentiments held in private by every man who has visited China in the last 20 years, and it is only to be regretted, the constant victories gained by a few Supracargoes should not have carried such conviction, as to make these sentiments more agreeable. I am aware they are not to be stated in a public letter, but as throughout life I have never disguised my opinions, I feel it my duty to convey them in some manner. I have lost my most worthy father, and have not the honour of being intimately known to any Director. That father introduced me to you, and taught me, sir, to respect your character to a degree that has induced me, in a mixture of public and private, to convey the actual state of things in China.

Now, my good sir, to the part we have taken in regard to the Alceste. With the Merchants I have declined all interference, and referred them to her captain. But, as was my duty, I privately warned Captain Maxwell of the character of those he had to deal with. If he did not think the privilege established by the Lion, viz. entering the Bogue, a sufficient point to be attempted whilst any risk of discussion existed, I suggested a plan of proceedings for remaining without the Bogue; but if he conceived the Ambassador wished, and his own judgment determined him that it should be insisted upon, I then pointed out the fallacy of negociation, and that in China the act must be performed and afterwards discussed. Had any formal application been made, it would have been refused; not upon the laws of China, but the arbitrary pleasure of an hostile Viceroy, and any proceeding contrary to his expressed will and pleasure would have proved very serious. As it is, I do hope the Viceroy will discover his error throughout, and that no evil consequences may arise to our trade. In a fortnight I hope we may despatch some of our ships with the result. From present appearances, I should boldly say, there is no cause for apprehension, but if I am mistaken, I should beg to plead, that the man who can, in China, decidedly prophecy the acts of the morrow, is unborn. A few more words on myself. If these ideas should be held as too strong, I have only to request I may be judged by my public acts, and I feel confident that no chief under whom I have served will scruple to say, the Company never had a more zealous servant. Throughout my conduct in this present discussion

cussion, I condemn myself for forbearance; at the same time, I act from instructions, and have only the alternative of endeavouring to convince the Court, that absolute submission is not necessary. I trust I never shall be the cause of losing the trade, or, I hope, give the Company real cause to be offended with me. Again apologizing for intruding myself on you.

I remain, dear Sir, your's most faithfully,

(signed) *Theos. J. Metcalfe.*

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors, dated 4th December 1816.

Par. 2. SINCE we had last the honour to address the Honourable the Secret Commercial Committee by the Cornwall, His Majesty's ship Alceste has entered the river, and we beg to refer to our Public Consultations of the 17th November for the statement which we received from Captain Maxwell, of his proceedings, and the hostile opposition of the forts at the Bogue, unjustifiable in its commencement, at Chumpee, and we are confident in no means warranted by any orders from his Imperial Majesty. When it was known that the Alceste had entered the Bogue, we learnt that an Edict was published in the city, notifying that although unusual for King's vessels to enter the river, on this particular occasion permission had been granted. Such an assertion will be convincing to your Honourable Committee of the little reliance that can be placed on any edict.

3. Captain Maxwell on his arrival in Canton addressed a letter to the Viceroy, which was translated by Mr. Bannerman with the assistance of Mr. Ball, and it is with pleasure we notice the satisfaction expressed by Captain Maxwell of the manner in which this translation was made. The letter was sent through one of the Compradores to the head Merchant by Captain Maxwell, with particular directions that he should deliver it with his compliments. The President had previously informed the Senior Merchants, that it would be delivered to them in this manner or by Captain Maxwell himself. It was at their own request that they became the bearers of the letter; it however suited the purpose of Government that the Committee should be connected with this transaction, and consequently the Merchants did not scruple to assert, they had received the letter from the President; our Compradore readily appeared before the Merchants, and declared that he had never mentioned Sir T. Metcalfe's name, but stated the letter was delivered to him by Captain Maxwell. Pinqua and Puankhequa however firmly denied this, and claimed a right to belief from their both concurring in the assertion; we are, however, confident the Compradore would not have ventured to appear before them in this manner, had he not strictly obeyed the injunctions given him. Any altercation must have led to a very serious dispute, but we have thought it our duty to report it to your Honourable Committee, as a proof of the deceits which are practised in all negociations with this Government.

4. This conduct came to our knowledge by our permitting Puankhequa to read an address from the Viceroy to the Merchants, which directed them to apprize the President for the information of the British Captain, of his answer to Captain Maxwell's letter, the preamble of which stated the letter had been delivered to them by the President. In the course of the reading of this document, to which we had consented as a private communication, we fully discovered their intention of reporting to the Viceroy that his orders had been obeyed; we therefore stopped their further proceedings, and we trust yonr Honourable Committee will approve of our determination not to interfere in this discussion.

5. It appeared by the extracts read to us, that the Viceroy had omitted such parts of Captain Maxwell's letter, the terms which might either be offensive to the Government, or more particularly pointed out the unjustifiable acts of hostility; the defence set up for the conduct of the officers of the forts was alleged to arise from the hasty proceeding in entering the Bogue, which did not permit the receipt of his orders, said to have been published on that very day, in the Edict to which we have alluded in the 2d Paragraph. We do not hesitate to express our firm belief that no success would have attended negociation, and that but for the judicious and firm conduct of Captain Maxwell, the privilege granted in 1793 would not have been preserved.

Redress of Grievances, &c.

6. Although we had informed the Merchants that no Captain in His Majesty's Navy, employed on so important a mission, could receive an answer addressed to Merchants, they proceeded to visit Captain Maxwell, who, as expected, refused to see them. They afterwards sealed the paper, and sent it by a Compradore, which was returned, and on our pointing out the impropriety of such a proceeding, they declared the order from the Viceroy is so positive, that they must endeavour, by all means in their power, to obtain its reception; we have assured them this is unavailing, and if the answer is not given in a respectful manner, it is not required, but Captain Maxwell will probably again address the Viceroy. The Lyra brig anchored at the second bar without molestation; pilots were offered, and every mark of attention shown on passing through the Bogue.

(16.)—DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CANTON.—SEASON 1817–18.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee of Supracargoes at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 8th December 1817.

Discussions with Canton Government. Season 1817–18.

Par. 62. IN the course of last summer, an attack, of an unusually daring and atrocious nature, was made by a party of Chinese upon the American ship Wabash, while at anchor in Macao Roads, by which several American seamen were killed, property in opium, dollars and articles of lesser value was carried off. We deemed it proper to address the Government upon this occasion, to give weight to the representations of the Consul of the United States upon a subject which involved the interests of all foreign nations trading to China. A number of the robbers were shortly arrested, together with considerable part of their booty; three of the former underwent capital punishment at Canton; the opium being a prohibited article was ordered to be destroyed, but the money was restored to the commander of the ship, who was called before the Quongchow Foo, and dismissed with a reprimand for appearing upon the coast of China with a prohibited article, by which he had subjected himself to a punishment, though it was remitted in this instance as an act of clemency.

63. The captains of the country ships then recently arrived appealed to us for instructions for their guide; the question was one of peculiar delicacy. Nations in general must be admitted to possess the right of regulating their commerce according to their separate views of policy; but China forms an exception to civilized countries, where trade is regulated by treaties. Foreigners have, equally with natives, the protection of the laws. When custom is invariably referred to by one party as the rule of action, it is but equitable that the advantages of that test should be reciprocal. Viewed in a prudential light, the admission of the novelty attempted to be imposed by the Merchants was greatly to be deprecated, as the records of the official year 1800–01 prove, that a conspiracy to attach the charge of smuggling to an obnoxious Hong is within the ingenuity of the Chinese. Upon reviewing the circumstances likely to arise from the admission of the bond by foreigners, we resolved to oppose the measure rigorously, issued orders to the commanders of all country ships, forbidding the signature of any such instrument; after a considerable delay, and some correspondence with the Merchants, the measure was abandoned by them, and trade resumed as formerly.

64. Transactions had scarcely taken their usual course, when threats of an intention on the part of the Chinese Government to search all ships in the river, occasioned a second appeal to our Board from the captains of country ships. The same reasoning which against general principles justifies opposition to the enactments of this Government, in the instance mentioned above, imposed it as a duty upon us to manifest a determination to unite the force of the British trade, to resist an innovation which would entail very serious impediments upon the trade between India and China. The removal of His Majesty's frigate Orlando from Lintin to Chumpee, joined with the publicity of the resolution to resist a search, we believe had a due effect, and the apprehensions of the attempt being made gradually disappeared.

(17.)—DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF CANTON.—SEASON 1820–1821.

Chinese killed by an Officer of the Company's Ship London.

LETTER from the Select Committee at Canton to the Secret Committee of the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 7th December 1820.

Par. 1. WE avail ourselves of the departure of the American ship Ophelia, bound direct to Cowes, to address your Honourable Committee previously to our closing our despatches to England by the Honourable Company's ships Orwell and Scaleby Castle, which will sail in a few days.

2. We think this indispensably necessary lest information from other quarters should be received in England before those ships arrive, which may create alarm and apprehension to the Honourable Court, from the unfortunate occurrence of a Chinese having been killed at Whampoa on the 27th ultimo, whereby we have been involved in a discussion with this Government, and which at one time led us to apprehend the most serious embarrassment to the Honourable Company's trade in China.

3. As your Honourable Committee will very shortly be in possession of our detailed proceedings, we shall confine ourselves to a brief statement of the facts which caused this unfortunate occurrence, the steps adopted by the Chinese authorities in consequence, and the remarkable and singular circumstances which have fortunately combined to bring about a favourable and speedy termination of the difficulties which have threatened the Honourable Company's interests at this port; the details of our preceedings upon this important subject we shall forward by the Honourable Company's ships Orwell and Scaleby Castle.

4. On the 27th ultimo a boat from the Honourable Company's ship London, with Mr. Pigott, fifth officer, and six men, proceeded up a branch of the river some distance from the shipping, for the purpose of procuring water; during their passage up to the watering place, as appears from the depositions of the seamen, they were assaulted with stones, and also experienced (as is but too common) much abusive language from the Chinese on the banks of the river; a ship's musket had been unfortunately put into the boat, and Mr. Pigott, in order to intimidate the Chinese, on one occasion discharged it loaded with peas in the direction of a party consisting of men and boys who were thus irritating him; after an interval he loaded the gun with what is supposed he believed was a blank cartridge, and on another occasion of abuse and much pelting, he discharged it a second time so loaded, intending to fire it over the heads of the insulting parties; it appears he was not aware that he had struck any of the Chinese by these shots; and it is stated by the seamen in the boat that they conceived no dangerous consequences had ensued. Having completed their watering trip, they returned late at night to the London.

5. It has since appeared that both these shots took effect, the first by slightly wounding three boys, and the last by occasioning the death of a man.

6. Some Chinese who were near the spot at the time, in order to ascertain who were those who shot the man, pursued the London's boat, and having traced her alongside, proceeded at once to the Mandarin of the district, and lodged a complaint against that ship, with all the circumstances of this unfortunate event; the result of this was an official communication from the Puan-hu-Hien to the Merchants, recapitulating the circumstances, and directing immediate inquiry to be made for the offenders, and the nation to which they belonged. This official document, dated on the 2d December, was communicated to us by the Merchants on the morning of the 29th ultimo, and was the first intimation we had of this unfortunate occurrence.

7. The delay that thus occurred before we were made acquainted with the circumstance, and the advanced progress the affair had arrived at in the knowledge of the officers of Government, rendered it difficult, if not impossible, to silence its further progress by pecuniary bribes, but we lost no time in trying their efficacy, and succeeded so far with the family of the deceased Chinese, in quieting the expression of their feelings, and neutralizing their evidence, as to make it appear this unfortunate occurrence was wholly unintentional; and we sent off an express to Macao for Dr. Morrison, who was absent with our permission, but whose immediate presence now became indispensable.

8. As we were assured a discussion with the Government was inevitable, and that their demand for an investigation into the affair and surrender of the offending party, would be peremptory, we lost no time on the 30th ultimo in appointing a Committee of Commanders, to proceed instantly to Whampoa, to inquire into the circumstances, and make a report of their proceedings to us in writing.

9. On the 1st instant the Puan Yue Heen, Magistrate of the Whampoa district, proceeded down to Whampoa, and with the accustomed formality, held an inquest on the body of the deceased Chinese; and having completed the depositions taken on this occasion, he forwarded his report to the higher authorities; it arrived in due course to the knowledge of the Viceroy, who, jointly with the Hoppo, issued an Edict addressed to the Merchants, dated the 2d instant, requiring them without delay to acquaint the English Chief with these occurrences, and directing instant measures to be taken for investigating the affair, and apprehending the offender. This Edict was communicated to us privately the same evening, and on the following morning, the 3d instant, we received it from the Merchants officially, it was also coupled with another Edict from the Puan-yue-heen, stating that the business now assumed a more atrocious aspect, for it had been ascertained that three boys had been wounded on the 27th ultimo, besides the Chinese who had been shot; it further added, that as this affair was traced to have been committed by persons belonging to the London, all commercial intercourse would be suspended with that ship until the offending parties were delivered over to them for trial and judgment; no suspension, however, of the general commercial intercourse, or interdiction to the departure of ships took place.

10. From the Report of the Committee of Commanders we could obtain but very vague information as to the facts which led to this unfortunate affair, but we received the certain intelligence that Mr. Pigott, the 5th officer of the London, was missing, and we have since learnt that he absconded on the 1st instant.

11. Immediately on receiving this intelligence, we directed strict search to be made for Mr. Pigott in all British ships in the port, with directions for his apprehension, which however proved fruitless.

12. Dr. Morrison arrived at Canton on the 3d, and by his valuable assistance and thorough knowledge of the Chinese language, we were speedily put in full possession of the tenor of the demands made by this Government; but as on so important and serious a subject it would be imprudent to be precipitate in our reply to the Viceroy, we informed the Merchants we must deliberate upon it, and form an answer on the following day.

13. Although Mr. Pigott's having absconded relieved us from all apprehension of the necessity that might otherwise have existed for our submitting to his being examined, and perhaps convicted of an offence which our laws might probably consider as manslaugher, but which those of China would treat as capital, we were unavoidably exposed to great difficulties and embarrassments; for the idea of a criminal having escaped, however great the opportunity afforded him for so doing, was an occurrence which the Chinese authorities could never publicly avow as possible.

Par. 14. In this dilemma, while deliberating on the measures it would be necessary for us to adopt, an event took place on board the Honourable Company's ship Duke of York, at Whampoa, as unexpected in its occurrence as it was likely to prove favourable in its consequences in putting an immediate termination to our difficulties.

15. An express reached Canton late on the night of the 3d instant, informing the President that on that day, shortly after an officer and party were on board the Duke of York charged with our orders to search after and detain Mr. Pigott, the butcher of that ship had suddenly cut his throat with a razor, and instantly expired. The first idea that suggested itself to the officers at Whampoo was to carry the corpse of this unfortunate man to the London, and affirm that it was the remains of the fifth officer of that ship. It was finally, however, arranged that no measure should be taken without our previous knowledge.

16. We determined upon ordering that the body should not be removed from the Duke of York; for great as the temptation was to avail ourselves of this most singular and remarkable coincidence to delude the Chinese Government with the idea that the person who had thus committed suicide was actually one of the persons in the London's boat on the 27th ultimo, and that he had been induced to commit violence upon himself from the dread of his impending fate and a sense of deep

deep remorse at the unfortunate events of that day, we did not conceive it would be consistent either with our own feelings or the character necessary to be maintained by the representatives of the British nation in this country, to affirm in writing a statement not founded in truth.

17. As, however, the Chinese Government might choose to avail themselves of such a subterfuge, (and we were informed the Viceroy would gladly embrace it), we considered it our duty, under the embarrassments we might otherwise be placed in, to facilitate rather than impede an inference to be drawn from the above circumstances which might enable them to satisfy the forms of justice.

Death of a Chinese.

18. We accordingly, on the 4th instant, addressed a short note to the Merchants, the substance of which, at their request, on the subsequent day, we embodied in an address to the Viceroy, copy of which we have the honour to enclose, and which we trust will meet with the approbation of your Honourable Committee.

19. The result of the letter we thus addressed to his Excellency was an Order from him for the Quang-chow-foo, and two Mandarins of rank, to proceed with the Merchants to Whampoa, to investigate the causes which led to the suicide of the butcher, and to investigate the boat's crew of the London.

20. On the 6th instant the above-named officers of Government proceeded on board the Duke of York on duty, and having examined the corpse of the butcher, and satisfied themselves that he had himself put a period to his existence, they summoned the six seamen who were in the London's boat on the 27th ultimo, before them, for the purpose of obtaining their evidence as to the facts of the occurrences of that day.

21. This evidence, with a statement of all that took place on board the Duke of York before the Mandarins, is fully detailed in our records, which will be forwarded by the Honourable Company's ship Orwell, having been communicated to us by Mr. Smith, who, in conjunction with Captains Larkins, Patterson and Adams, had been directed by us to be present.

22. Referring your Honourable Committee to these records, we shall refrain in the present despatch from entering more fully into the evidence, further than to state that, as expected, it was entirely fabricated for the occasion, and having been corroborated by the six seamen, and the friends of the deceased Chinese having satisfied the forms of justice, the Mandarins left the ship.

23. Thus has the Honourable Company's Trade been relieved from serious impending embarrassments, although we cannot, strictly speaking, justify the means adopted to bring about this favourable issue, we trust, with the knowledge we possessed of the Chinese officers of Government being willing to lend themselves to the deception, that we shall not incur the disapprobation of your Honourable Committee for countenancing an expedient which has thus speedily brought about a termination of the difficulties which threatened the Honourable Company's interest in this port.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 29th December 1820.

Par. 6. SHORTLY after the termination of the discussions respecting the death of the Chinese, it was intimated to us by Pinqua that it might be a very politic measure to expedite as much as possible the departure of the London and Duke of York. The force of this suggestion was immediately acknowledged, and it has since derived additional confirmation from a trifling occurrence a few days ago, which, however, has fortunately failed of the intended object.

7. We are informed that a military graduate, recently returned from Pekin, on hearing of the proceedings in the late case of homicide, conspired with three or four other men to reverse the proceedings, on the ground that the man who committed suicide was not the murderer; to effect this they sought out the aged father of the deceased Chinese, and instructed him to write out a declaration that he was not satisfied with the late proceedings. Whilst engaged in preparing this document, the Whampoa magistrate (the Pwan-yu-hun), suddenly came upon the party and seized them. He obtained from the old man an affirmation that he had been *excited* to write the statement in question, and taught how to word it; and upon a report being made to the Fooyuen, he ordered that the parties implicated should be prosecuted with rigour, as exciters to litigation.

II. China Papers. — Redress of Grievances, &c.

12. The late attempt to revive the proceedings, has, no doubt, originated in the hope of extorting money from the persons connected with the foreign trade. We, trust, however, that as the attempt has met the decided reprobation of the Fooyuen, no further molestation need be apprehended from any persons in this district; and both the ships, as also Mr. Pigott, will have been removed before any advices can be received from Pekin on the subject.

(18.)—COMPANY'S TRADE STOPPED BY THE CANTON GOVERNMENT, IN CONSEQUENCE OF SOME CHINESE BEING KILLED BY PART OF THE CREW OF HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP TOPAZE.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 2d January 1822.

Stoppage of Company's Trade.

Par. 2. IN the letter which we had the honour to address the Honourable the Secret Committee on the 24th instant, by the packet of the Windsor, (duplicate of which we now enclose), we stated the unpleasant occurrence which had taken place at Lintin between His Majesty's ship Topaze and the Chinese inhabitants of that island, and which has resulted in the death of two of the Chinese.

3. The particulars of the affair were communicated by a report from Mr. Hamilton, the First Lieutenant of the Topaze, to Captain Richardson, a copy of which was handed to us by the latter officer, with a letter from himself to us on the occasion. Copies of these letters were made numbers in the Windsor's packet, and we have now the honour to forward duplicates of them, together with copies of the most important documents which have passed on this occasion.

4. As soon as the Windsor was laden and ready for sea, we deemed it prudent to get her out of the river without delay. Considering it however important to have it in our power, if possible, to furnish the Honourable Court by her with information of the probable result of the unpleasant event which had occurred, we considered it advisable to detain her a few days at Lintin for that purpose, and she has accordingly remained at that anchorage, waiting our final despatch to England. As the lading of the Repulse and Farquharson has since been effected, and their grand chops have not been withheld, we have it in contemplation to despatch the Windsor forthwith, and shall have the honour to forward by her the whole of the proceedings of the Lintin affair.

5. When in the early stage of the unpleasant affair at Linton, we ascertained that the Honourable Company's concerns were likely to be involved in consequence, we were anxiously engaged in pointing out to the local government, through the medium of the Merchants, the injustice of implicating the Honourable Company's affairs, in a transaction wherein His Majesty's ship alone had been engaged, in repeating what we had on so many occasions already stated, how totally unconnected we were with the King's ships, and how completely and positively they were beyond our authority and control; and that therefore we trusted we should be exempted from all embarrassment on this account.

6. We regretted to find all our endeavours in this mode unavailing, and as soon therefore as the suspension of our trade was officially announced to us, we considered it proper to address the Viceroy a temperate representation of the situation in which we were placed.

7. Your Honourable Court will perceive, by the Edict of the Viceroy issued in reply to our representation, that our appeal to him failed in producing the desired effect, and that his Excellency (who is at this time holding in himself *pro tempore* the seals of office of Viceroy, Fooyuen, and Hoppo), has unequivocally declared, that he holds the Honourable Company's representatives responsible for the affair at Lintin.

8. The tone and temper assumed by the Viceroy, and the footing on which he considers the affair, are fully manifested by his Edicts on the occasion, and we are concerned to say the trade continues suspended, nor is it in our power at this period to surmise what is likely to be the result of the very embarrassing situation in which we are placed.

9. We beg to assure your Honourable Court, that every possible exertion on our part shall be used to remove the difficulties in which we have been unfortunately placed.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 5th January 1822.

Stoppage of Company's Trade.

Death of a Chinese.

Par. 4. BY the Windsor, we have now the honour to forward the whole of our proceedings thus far relative to the unpleasant occurrence at Lintin, whereby your Honourable Court will fully perceive the very embarrassing situation in which the Honourable Company's affairs and representatives have been placed on that account, and the pertinacity with which the Viceroy of Canton continues to hold them responsible for the transactions of his Majesty's ship.

5. We have been daily encouraging the hope, that the Viceroy might be induced to relax in his very unreasonable demands, and that he would besides have deputed an officer of Government to the Topaze, for the purpose of negotiating the existing difficulties with Captain Richardson himself, a measure, the propriety of which we have most earnestly pointed out to the Merchants, and one which your Honourable Court will perceive we suggested to the Viceroy, in our address to him of the 29th ultimo, and which we have again requested of him in our address of yesterday.

6. Finding that all our efforts to extricate ourselves from our very embarrassing situation in vain, and as it is impossible to calculate on what conduct the Viceroy may not pursue in his present tone and temper, we considered the period had arrived when some actual steps should be taken on our part, which would manifest to the Chinese our determination to resist, by the best means in our power, the injustice of their demands.

7. We have, therefore, applied through the Merchants for the usual permission to embark the Honourable Company's treasure, and have fixed on Monday next, the 7th instant, for sending it down to the Honourable Company's ships at Whampoa, and boats from the several ships will accordingly be ordered up for the conveyance of the treasure on that day.

8. It is mpossible to say what may be the effect of this measure, but should no advances from the Chinese towards an adjustment of the present difficulties arise from it, and affairs continue in their present posture, we shall at least have the satisfaction of placing the Honourable Company's property out of difficulty and danger, and, consequently, be less shackled should circumstances unfortunately compel us to resort to ulterior measures.

9. Not having heard from Captain Richardson, we are unaware of what his intentions are, and without some knowledge of them it is impossible for us to come to any fixed determination as to the line of conduct to be pursued. Your Honourable Court, however, may rely, that we shall not adopt any precipitate measures.

10. In consequence of the two Edicts of the Viceroy of the 31st ultimo and the 2d instant, we have considered it advisable to try the effect of another temperate address to him, and we shall feel exceedingly rejoiced if it produces any alteration in the Viceroy's present inflexible conduct; two or three days, however, may, in all probability, elapse before this can be ascertained.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 16th January 1822.

Par. 1. OUR last address to your Honourable Court was dated on the 5th inst., at which period we entertained hopes that our address to his Excellency the Viceroy of Canton of the 11th instant, might have brought about some arrangement that would lead to a termination of the unfortunate discussions in which we have been involved with the local authorities of this province, in consequence of the affair at Lintin.

2. It is with regret we have to observe, that his Excellency has remained unmoved by our representations, and instead of listening to our suggestions of deputing some officer of Government to confer with Captain Richardson, has persisted in his unjust demands, and evinced the most inflexible determination in all his Edicts, either to have the murderers (as he terms them) delivered up from the Topaze for trial and judgment, or to hold us individually responsible, should they be withheld any longer by Captain Richardson.

3. This threatening language of his Excellency the Viceroy, so undeviatingly persisted in and so often repeated, at length compelled us, for our more perfect

 security,

security, to retire to our ships; we accordingly, on the 11th instant, in the morning, proceeded with the whole Factory to the ships at Whampoa, having previously embarked the treasure, and delivered over the Factories and the property in them to the charge of the Merchants, into whose hands we at the same time placed a letter, which we had drawn up for the then officers of the Viceroy, Fooyuen and Hoppo, explanatory of the causes of our departure.

4. The decisive measure of the British Factory having retired from Canton, coupled with the temperate but firm language in which we explained our reasons for so doing to his Excellency the Viceroy, induced that Mandarin to reconsider the motives which had dictated his conduct towards us, and on the day following our departure, he directed the Merchants to proceed to Whampoa, and verbally assure us that the threat of our personal responsibility would no longer be insisted upon; but having great reason to discredit the assertions of the Merchants, we required them to bring us a written reply to our address to his Excellency the Viceroy of the 10th instant, before we could be induced to think of returning to Canton, or indeed to listen to any overtures.

5. On the 12th instant the Merchants again returned to us, bringing with them an Edict, addressed to them by the Viceroy, for our information, the purport of which was to remove the threat of personal responsibility from us, but still to hold it over the Company's trade, in the event of "the foreign murderers" from Captain Richardson's ship not being forthcoming for trial and judgment.

6. The tenor of this communication, written with the view to bring us back to Canton, but evincing in plain terms a determination to renew the discussion, and again to interdict the trade, was not sufficient to induce us to alter our resolution of proceeding down the river; we accordingly have arrived with the whole of the Honourable Company's ships at this anchorage; but before adopting further measures, we shall await the reply of the Viceroy to our letter of the 13th instant, in answer to his communication above alluded to.

7. We have reason to expect that this letter to his Excellency, when he sees the entire impossibility of our acting in the settlement of the Lintin affair, may have the effect of inducing him to depute some officer of Government to confer with Captain Richardson, and thus devise some method of accommodation. The Merchants left us on the 13th instant, intending by every means in their power to recommend this course of proceeding to his Excellency the Viceroy, and we are in great hopes that by this means the present unpleasant discussion may speedily be brought to a close, and that we may be enabled to resume our commercial transactions without risk of further impediment.

8. We feel it impossible to convey to your Honourable Court in the short compass of a letter all the reasoning and argument which has governed our conduct throughout this very arduous and important negociation, we therefore respectfully beg to refer your Honourable Court to the detailed account of our proceedings, which we now forward per the Honourable Company's ship Windsor, from the period of their commencing (19th December last) to the present date; and from this "Statement" your Honourable Court will be enabled to form an accurate idea of the very embarrassing situation in which we have been placed.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 30th January 1822.

Par. 2. BY the Honourable Company's ship Farquharson, which we do not deem it advisable to detain any longer in China, we now transmit a continuation of our proceedings up to the present date; and it is with sincere regret we have to inform your Honourable Court, that, so far from any termination of our discussions having been effected with the Canton Government, we have been reduced to the necessity of removing the Honourable Company's ships through the Bocca Tigris, as the Viceroy has apparently placed such an insuperable bar to all hope of accommodation, by exacting conditions which it is utterly impossible for us to perform.

3. So far from the Viceroy's acquiescing in the request we made to him, of deputing some authorized officer of Government to confer with Captain Richardson, we had the mortification to receive from that Mandarin a repetition of his unjust demands, expressed in the most unequivocal terms, in his Edict to the Hong Merchants for our information, under date the 16th January.

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Stoppage of Company's Trade.

Death of a Chinese.

4. The Hong Merchants, when they delivered this document into our hands, expressed their regret at the unfavourable terms in which it was couched; but they assured us, that although the Viceroy was compelled in his official papers to persist in his demands, he was in reality desirous to avail himself of any opening, by which he could, with the appearance of propriety, adjust the present embarrassing discussion; and with this view the Hong Merchants suggested to us the expediency of using our influence with Captain Richardson, to persuade him, in compliance with the allusion made in the latter part of the Viceroy's Edict of the 16th instant, to address us, signifying his inability to settle the Lintin affair; but that he would, on his return to England, report it to his Sovereign, when it would be prosecuted according to law.

5. Although former, and indeed daily experience, has taught us that no reliance is to be placed in the assertions of the Merchants; and although we had in the outset of the present discussion most positively declared that we could not interfere between Captain Richardson and the Chinese authorities in an affair so peculiarly their own, we were induced, in consideration of the vast importance attending an adjustment of the Lintin affair, to credit the assertions of the Merchants, and to depart from the ground we had originally taken by consenting, in compliance with their suggestions, to address Captain Richardson, stating their proposition, and leaving it to his judgment to acquiesce in it or not.

6. Captain Richardson, willing to avail himself of any opening by which he could, consistently with his duty, bring about a renewal of the suspended commerce of the Company, consented to comply with the suggestion of the Hong Merchants, and wrote us a letter founded thereon, which we lost no time in incorporating in a letter to the Hong Merchants, and delivered into their hands.

7. The Hong Merchants wished us to address this letter to the Viceroy; but to this we could not consent, as that Mandarin had placed our correspondence under such restrictions, by his Edict of the 16th instant, that any address to him would be quite unavailing. At the entreaty, however, of the Merchants, received again from them after their return to Canton, we conceded this point, in order that no impediment might stand in the way of the proposed mode of adjustment, and addressed the Viceroy on the 20th instant, enclosing Captain Richardson's Statement.

8. The intervention of the Chinese new year on the 23d instant, prevented our receiving any official communication in reply to our address to the Viceroy for several days; but on the 25th instant, the Merchants again came down to the second bar, bringing with them an Edict to their address from the Viceroy, under date the 22d instant, which purported to be an answer to our last address to that Mandarin, the tenor of which, while it clearly proved the falsity of the Merchants suggestions, was nothing more than a reiteration of the unjust demands of the Viceroy.

9. Under such circumstances, and considering it but too evident from the general tenor of his Edict, that the Viceroy was decidedly averse to any sort of accommodation of the existing difficulties, we determined, conformably with our resolution drawn up on the 7th instant, to adopt the determination then contemplated of removing our ships through the Bocca Tigris; and accordingly we proceeded with the whole of the Company's ships through that passage without molestation, and reached this anchorage the evening of the 25th instant.

10. We beg to assure your Honourable Court, that we are fully sensible of the responsibility we have incurred in adopting the decisive measure of moving the Honourable Company's ships through the Bocca Tigris; but we were prepared, if necessary, to take this responsibility upon ourselves, from a conviction, after the fruitless termination of every other possible expedient, that this step was far more likely to convince the Chinese Government of the firmness of our intentions, and, consequently, infinitely better calculated to bring about an accommodation, if they were really desirous of preserving our commerce, than the measure of our remaining inactive and undecided at the second bar.

11. Under this conviction we have removed the Honourable Company's ships to this anchorage; and, we trust, this more decisive measure may induce the Viceroy at last to relax in his unjust and unreasonable demands; should this measure not produce such a result, it will then remain for our deliberate and serious consideration what further measures to adopt in our present most embarrassing situation.

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12. Although the inconvenience attending the entire suspension of this valuable commerce must be very considerable during the interval that must elapse before a reference to higher authorities can adjust the existing embarrassments, we conceive that our footing in this country must be greatly ameliorated by such reference, and the permanent interests of the Honourable Company and the British nation far better secured, while, at the same time, the heavy responsibility incurred by the Viceroy will, in its consequences, be the means of deterring his successors from that indiscriminate use of the suspension of our commerce, so frequently and unjustly employed by this Government as a means to obtain their wishes on almost every occasion.

13. Under such a view of our present very embarrassing situation, we have not scrupled to act up fully to the principles laid down, when we adopted the resolution of quitting Canton on the 11th instant; and, in order that our measures should appear firm and consistent in the eyes of the Chinese, we made arrangements the day following our arrival at this anchorage for filling up the cargo of the Kent, by transhipping the Congo Teas into that ship from the Charles Grant, Waterloo and Bridgwater; and we also made the necessary preparations for removing the cotton imported to our consignment per country ship Susan, into our own ships at this anchorage.

14. While these arrangements have been going on, we received intelligence through private channels from Canton, that the sensation produced there by the departure of the Honourable Company's ships outside the Bocca Tigris was very considerable, and that we might shortly expect to receive some further proposition from the Chinese Government.

15. On the 29th instant, the Merchants, accompanied by the elder Chunqua, came on board the Waterloo, we regret to say, without official authority to confer with us from the Government, but merely with the view of making some proposition to us, which, in their opinion, might speedily terminate the present discussion.

16. We have already stated to your Honourable Court how little the assertions and suggestions of the Merchants are to be relied upon. We considered it our duty, however, to attend patiently to any proposition they had to make, and, if possible, to comply with it. Their proposal now was, that we should persuade Captain Richardson to assert that two seamen had absconded from the Topaze, an assertion which, in their opinion, the Government would readily avail themselves of to adjust the dispute, by charging these two men with the guilt in the Lintin affair.

17. Such a proposition it is needless to state to your Honorable Court was instantly repelled as inadmissible, inasmuch as the assertion must come from Captain Richardson; and we felt convinced that officer would never acquiesce in making one which would not only be totally devoid of truth, but would also be an unequivocal admission of culpability.

18. We then applied to the Merchants to know if they would be the bearers of a letter from Captain Richardson to the Viceroy, and upon their assenting to the proposition, we informed them that we had no doubt but that he would gladly avail himself of that opportunity to recapitulate the facts attending the Lintin affair, in which he would satisfactorily remove from the mind of the Government a false impression that had gone abroad respecting that unfortunate affair having been repeated a second day; and we assured the Merchants, that had the Viceroy, in the first instance, condescended to receive Captain Richardson's statements, and given them that credit they were entitled to, such an impression never could have existed. We further stated, that on their taking charge of a letter from Captain Richardson to the Viceroy, they must promise us they would deliver it unopened to that Mandarin.

19. The Merchants stated that it was currently believed the seamen of the Topaze went on shore a second day, and committed acts of violence upon the natives in cool blood, but if this could be disproved the affair might be satisfactorily terminated, for the Chinese law made a great distinction in such cases: they therefore consented to take a letter from Captain Richardson, and deliver it unopened to the Viceroy, provided we could assure them it contained an explanation of this important fact.

20. We of course had no hesitation in giving this assurance, and Captain Richardson has drawn up a letter this day to the desired effect, with which the

Merchants have departed for Canton; and they seem to think it probable that the Viceroy, on the strength of it, will depute an officer of Government on board the frigate to confer with Captain Richardson on this point, and that the business will be finally arranged to our satisfaction, and the renewal of the Company's commerce follow as a matter of course.

Stoppage of Company's Trade.

21. We have thus briefly recapitulated to your Honourable Court the state of our discussions with the Canton Government, from the period of the sailing of the Windsor to the present date; a more trying and anxious period we will venture to assert was never experienced, but we have great satisfaction in reflecting that throughout this embarrassing negociation, while we have steadily resisted every unjust demand, we have uniformly availed ourselves of every suggestion tending to restore the suspended commerce of the Honourable Company which we could adopt with a due regard to the principles of truth, consistency and honour.

Death of a Chinese.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 7th February 1822.

Par. 3. IN our last Despatch we stated to your Honourable Court that the Merchants had consented to deliver a letter from Captain Richardson to the Viceroy, recapitulating the facts attending the Lintin affair, and explaining away the erroneous impression entertained by the Chinese of a second day's conflict having occurred on that unfortunate occasion.

4. This explanation it was presumed might afford the Viceroy the means of adjusting the present very embarrassing discussions, and the Merchants left us on the 29th ultimo, very sanguine in their expectations of the success of this expedient.

5. On the second instant we had the satisfaction to hear that the Merchants, together with two Mandarins, the Pan-Yu, and the Tung-kwan (or Chumpee) Magistrate, were on their way to Chumpee, the two latter having been deputed by the Viceroy to proceed on board the Topaze, and confer with Captain Richardson on the Lintin affair.

6. On the 3d instant, these two Mandarins repaired on board the frigate, and received from Captain Richardson a statement of the occurrences at Lintin on the 16th December last, and having examined some of the seamen who were wounded on that occasion, they returned to Canton to make their report on the same to the Viceroy.

7. We shall sincerely rejoice if this official mission, so long and earnestly requested by us, may prove beneficial in its results, and be availed of by the Viceroy as a means of terminating at once the difficulties under which the Honourable Company's trade is at present labouring.

8. From the conversation, however, which took place between the Merchants and ourselves, on the morning the Mandarins visited the Topaze, we can hardly venture to conjecture whether such will or will not be the result.

9. It appears from the communication of the Merchants, that although the Mandarins deputed to inquire into the Lintin affair, would cheerfully report Captain Richardson's statement of it to the Viceroy, the Chinese laws could never admit the plea of self-defence as justifiable; that, therefore, the Viceroy would still be imperatively called upon to persist in demanding the surrender of the seamen so long as the Topaze remained in China.

10. If this be true it is not easy to see in what manner the visit of the Chinese Magistrates can tend to a final adjustment of the present differences. That deputation may have been ordered by the Viceroy in order to relieve himself from the responsibility of never having instituted an inquiry into the affair, or it may have arisen from a desire to have official grounds on which to frame a report to the Emperor, suited to the view which the Viceroy may choose to take of the subject.

11. We yesterday received a letter from Captain Richardson, notifying his intention of proceeding to sea to-morrow. It is impossible for us to conjecture what effect the departure of the frigate from China may have in the present stage of our embarrassing situation.

12. The immediate sailing of His Majesty's ship being now officially understood by us, it only remains for us to discover whether this measure may be productive of beneficial or ill consequences in our present discussions; and we shall be happy if they prove to be such as are likely to bring about a favourable adjustment of our difficulties.

II.
China Papers.

Redress of Grievances, &c.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 23d February 1822.

Par. 2. WE have now the pleasure of despatching the Kent with a continuation of our proceedings up to the present period; and it affords us no small gratification to be at length enabled to convey to your Honourable Court the satisfactory intelligence of the final termination of the embarrassing discussion in which we have been involved with the local authorities at Canton.

3. In our despatch by the Repulse, we stated to your Honourable Court, that two Mandarins had been deputed to visit His Majesty's ship Topaze, and had received from Captain Richardson his statement of the Lintin affair; it was further stated in that despatch, that although the Mandarins would cheerfully report Captain Richardson's statement to the Viceroy, the Chinese laws could never admit the plea of self defence as justifiable; and that therefore the Viceroy would still be imperatively called upon to persist in demanding the surrender of the seamen so long as the Topaze remained in China.

4. Captain Richardson having allowed a reasonable time to elapse, and having received no communication from Government in reply to his statement, determined to proceed to sea, and conformably with this decision sailed finally from China on the 8th instant.

5. Immediately on the frigate's departure we addressed a letter to the Merchants, announcing that event for the information of Government; and we entertained hopes, that as all adjustment seemed to depend upon her movements, this circumstance would speedily bring about a termination of our difficulties.

6. No notice however was taken of our communication until the 13th instant, when the Merchants visited us at Chumpee, making a variety of propositions to us, which, being perfectly inadmissible, we rejected.

7. It appears that the departure of His Majesty's ship Topaze had not entirely removed the difficulties under which the Viceroy was placed with regard to adjustment, and that some further representation would be required from us in order to facilitate this object.

8. The propositions and expedients submitted to us by the Merchants being quite inadmissible, and it appearing indispensable that we should make some communication to them, we consented to address a letter to them, in which we quoted the words made use of by Captain Richardson in two of his letters, wherein he stated it to be his intention (now that the Officers of Government had fully inquired into the Lintin affair,) to proceed to sea, and that affair being one beyond his management, it would be represented to His Majesty's Government, and investigated according to the laws of the land.

9. The Merchants left us apparently satisfied with the efficacy of this letter; but on the 17th instant they again returned, entreating us to address a copy of our letter of the 13th instant to the Viceroy, Fooyuen, and Hoppo, with a few alterations in the phraseology, and requesting the insertion of a clause, promising that your Honourable Court would represent the Lintin affair to His Britannic Majesty for investigation.

10. To this latter request however we objected, it being one that we did not conceive ourselves justified in literally assenting to, as we might be laying ourselves open to a renewal of this embarrassing discussion at a future period, when the Chinese Government might require an answer from us upon the subject.

11. Although we did not consider ourselves justified in adding the clause proposed, such importance was attached to the addition of something in our address that would serve to satisfy the Government, that we conceived we might in general terms state, that though the Lintin affair, like all others involving the Company's Trade, would be fully detailed to your Honourable Court, and that Captain Richardson having already assured the Viceroy it would be referred to His Majesty's Government, it was unnecessary for us to repeat it to them through your Honourable Court. We further added, that as the Topaze was now gone away, it was impossible for us to give any further explanation to Government upon this subject, but that if the Viceroy would remove the suspension of the Honourable Company's Trade we should be willing to return to Canton, and resume our commercial intercourse.

12. The Merchants left us perfectly satisfied with the alteration made in our letter, which was now shaped in an address to the Viceroy, Fooyuen, and Hoppo;

Hoppo; and we had the satisfaction, on the 22d instant, to receive an Edict from Government, re-opening the Honourable Company's Trade, and inviting our return to Canton.

Stoppage of Company's Trade.

13. For a more detailed account of the conduct pursued by us in this embarrassing affair, we must again refer your Honourable Court to the continuation of our proceedings, which are now forwarded per Kent.

Death of a Chinese.

14. We forbear making many comments upon the Edict which has been issued, removing the suspension of the Honourable Company's Trade, further than to observe to your Honourable Court, that the Canton Government, finding all the modes ineffectual, have resorted to the expedient proposed on the 17th January last as a mode of concluding the negociation on the Lintin affair. Your Honourable Court will also perceive, that by the Edict now issued through the Pan-yeu and Tung-Kwang magistrates, who were deputed to inquire into the Lintin affair on board the frigate on the 3d instant, the Viceroy appears to have imposed a share of responsibility upon those Mandarins on its final arrangement.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 10th April 1822.

Public Consultations, March 21, 1822.

Par. 70. YOUR Honourable Court will perceive on these records, under the date noted in the margin, that the Viceroy of Canton has transmitted a paper to us, containing the grossest misrepresentation of the facts relating to the Lintin affair, wherein we are stated as having given assurances to the Government of the return of the accused seamen of His Majesty's ship Topaze, and are required, through the medium of your Honourable Court, to convey insulting messages to His Britannic Majesty upon the subject.

71. This paper, we were assured by the Merchants, was of no real importance, but was sent us merely as a matter of form by the Viceroy; it appeared however very evident, that our silently receiving such a document, and suffering it to pass unnoticed, would hereafter be construed into an admission of its justice, which in the event of any revival of the discussion would place us in a very embarrassing dilemma.

72. We determined, therefore, to return the paper to the Merchants from whom we had received it, desiring them to inform the Viceroy, that having already assured him all the proceedings relative to the Lintin affair would be faithfully reported to your Honourable Court, and Captain Richardson having also stated that this affair would be represented to His Majesty's Ministers, any further requisition from us seemed quite unnecessary; but that with regard to our communicating the present paper through your Honourable Court to His Britannic Majesty, it was so complete a perversion of facts, and of such an insulting tendency, that it was quite impossible for us to transmit it. We therefore declined receiving it; but we added, that if the Viceroy wished to address His Majesty's Ministers direct on this subject, we would not fail to forward his letter.

73. The Merchants communicated our decision to the Viceroy, and returned the paper he had sent us; and we are informed he expressed great displeasure at our refusing to receive it; but no further measures having been adopted, we are disposed to believe it will not again be pressed upon us.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 18th April 1822.

Public Consultations, April 12.

Par. 4. YOUR Honourable Court will perceive in our Public Consultations, that another attempt has been made by the Merchants to induce us to receive and forward to your Honourable Court the paper transmitted to us by the Viceroy of Canton on the 19th ultimo, the subject of which has been fully explained in our letter by the Scaleby Castle; it is scarcely necessary to state, that this attempt like the others was steadily resisted by us, and we are disposed to believe it will not be again renewed.

II.
China Papers.

Redress of Grievances, &c.

LETTER in the Public Department, from Secretary W. H. C. Plowden, to Joseph Dart, Esq., Secretary, &c. East India House.

Sir,

Par. 1. THE departure of the American ship Zephyr, bound to the United States of America, affords an opportunity for the transmission of the enclosed Imperial reply to the Viceroy's report to Pekin on the subject of the Lintin affair, which has been recently obtained by the President through a private channel from Canton.

2. The President and Select Committee, in their address to the Honourable Court of Directors on the 26th ultimo, forwarded by the American ship Levant, noticed the arrival of this document at Canton, but they were unable at that period to procure a copy of it for the information of the Honourable Court.

3. It is at present impossible to say what further inquiries the Chinese Government may institute on this affair, when a sufficient period shall have elapsed for an answer to be received from England on the subject; but the tenor of the document is of a nature to induce the apprehension of a renewal of the discussion; and it will be observed, that by the Imperial decision the Chief of the Factory is in future to be held responsible for the acts of His Majesty's naval officers.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

Macao, May 7th, 1822. (Signed) *W. H. C. Plowden,* Secretary.

EXTRACT LETTER, in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 30th May 1822.

Par. 1. ON the 7th instant our Secretary transmitted to Mr. Secretary Dart, for the information of your Honourable Court, the copy of the Imperial decision on the subject of the Lintin affair, which had been privately obtained from Canton.

2. By the departure of an American vessel, now sailing for the United States, we avail ourselves of the opportunity of addressing your Honourable Court, for the purpose of transmitting the official communication to us of this Decree, which was received yesterday from Canton through the Hong Merchants. We also think it our duty without delay to draw the particular attention of your Honourable Court to this important document, not only with reference to its bearings upon the Lintin discussion, but its operation on any similar occurrence.

Public Consultations, 1822, March 19, 21, 22, 28 & 30; April 12.

3. A review of the whole of our proceedings during this discussion, the falsified representations of the local government to Pekin in February last, (to which our assent was subsequently required, but withheld), and the present result of the Viceroy's report to the Emperor, will clearly explain to your Honourable Court the embarrassing situation we may be placed in should the requisitions of Government be followed up, and what is now expected from us on any future and similar case.

4. Your Honourable Court will perceive that the two great points attempted to be maintained by us during the recent discussion, viz. that "self-defence was universally considered a justification of homicide," and that "the representatives of the Honourable Company could not justly be responsible for the acts of His Majesty's naval officers," are now not acknowledged. And we beg to inform your Honourable Court that the Imperial reply has appeared in the Pekin Gazette, where it is published to the Empire as "the last declaration of the laws of China concerning homicides committed by foreigners in this country."

5. It is unnecessary for us to offer any further comment upon this subject, for with all the documents relating to it in your possession, your Honourable Court will be fully competent to judge of its present and future effects. But when we reflect upon the power with which the local authorities at Canton are now invested by this last promulgation of the law, and the fatal termination of the American homicide in October last, we can hardly flatter ourselves, in the event of any future accidents, that that line of cautious policy towards foreigners will be observed, which has hitherto characterized the Chinese in their discussions with us upon affairs of this nature.

6. Since

Stoppage of Company's Trade.

Death of a Chinese.

6. Since the decision of Government has now been officially communicated to us through the Hong Merchants, we do not conceive that we can with propriety allow it to pass unobserved. We therefore beg to acquaint your Honourable Court, that we have come to the determination of addressing the Fooyuen, (who is at present holding the seals of office of the absent Viceroy), protesting against the justness of the present requisitions of the Chinese Government on the subject of homicides, and expressly disavowing the truth of the assertions of the late Viceroy respecting our promise of producing the men of His Majesty's ship Topaze for punishment.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 15th July 1822.

Par. 9. IN our last address to your Honourable Court, dated the 30th May, (duplicate of which accompanies our present despatch), we transmitted for your information the official communication of the Imperial decision on the Lintin affair, which we had received on the 29th of that month, through the Hong Merchants from Canton.

10. In the 6th Paragraph of that Letter, we stated to your Honourable Court that it was our intention to address the Fooyuen of Canton, (who was acting for the Viceroy during his absence,) protesting against the justness of the requisitions of the Chinese Government on the subject of homicides; and by a re-statement of the real facts that occurred during the Lintin discussion, expressly disavowing the truth of the Viceroy's assertions respecting our promises, in his report on that affair to Pekin.

11. Conformably with this determination, we drew up the Enclosure, No. 2, which was transmitted to Canton by Mr. Robarts and Sir William Fraser, and delivered through the Merchants to the Fooyuen on the 9th ultimo; on the following 17th we received in reply the Enclosure, No. 3, from Canton, wherein the Fooyuen, so far from admitting the justice of our reasoning, appears to insist upon the principle of our being responsible for the acts of His Majesty's ships, and requires implicit obedience to the commands of the Emperor of China, and we have reason to believe that such are the actual expectations of the Chinese Government from the interest that has since been taken (through the Hong Merchants) to impress their necessity upon us.

12. The local government having been made acquainted with our sentiments by the enclosed "Re-statement of facts," we have not deemed it necessary to return any reply to the Edict of the Fooyuen, received on the 17th ultimo, and since that period all communication on the subject of the Lintin affair has ceased. It is impossible for us to say what further measures the Chinese Government may think proper to adopt; but we beg to state to your Honourable Court, that we conceive the tenor of the enclosed documents are of a nature to induce the apprehension of a renewal of this unpleasant discussion, when a sufficient time shall have elapsed for an answer to be received on this subject from England; and this opinion may derive some weight from the circumstance of the immediate return of the Viceroy, Yuen-tajin, who, it is said, is now on his way to Canton, having received the Imperial instructions to this effect while on his journey to Pekin.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 27th March 1823.

Par. 3. THE Viceroy intimated to the President, through the Hong Merchants, that he looked forward to the arrival of the next ships from England for the return of those persons responsible for the death of Chinese subjects during the disturbance at Ling-Ting; and likewise that neglect on the part of the Merchants to procure satisfaction, would be attended with serious consequences. It appears that a petition from an inhabitant of Ling-Ting to the Imperial Court has been transmitted to the Viceroy, who, in his justification, has asserted that the period for the return of the criminals from England has not arrived, but that he would not neglect his duty at the proper season, in consequence of which he has resumed the communication of the subject to the Hong Merchants.

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LETTER in the Public Department, from Secretary J. N. Daniell to Joseph Dart, Esq. Secretary, East India House.

Sir,

Par. 1. I AM directed by the President and Select Committee to acquaint you, for the information of the Honourable Court, that the suspension of commercial proceedings imposed by the Chinese Government is at length removed, by an Edict received from the Hoppo on 23d ultimo, immediately subsequent to which orders were issued to the Commanders of the Honourable Company's ships to proceed from their anchorage in the neighbourhood of Macao to Whampoa, where they have all arrived, with the exception of the Honourable Company's ships Windsor and Hythe, both of which ships may be expected in the course of the present month.

2. In compliance with the tenor of the instructions of the Honourable Court, orders were given to the commander of the Honourable Company's ship Bombay on her arrival to proceed to Whampoa as usual. Shortly after which event, an Edict was issued by the Viceroy, requiring the delivery of the two murderers, whom he had notified to the Emperor were to be expected in the ships of the present season.

3. A reply was immediately delivered to the Hong Merchants, who were the bearers of the Viceroy's communication, that no individuals were to be ceded to the requisition of the Viceroy; and that the ill health of Captain Richardson, by detaining him at the Cape of Good Hope, had prevented the occurrence of an investigation; that this was the only communication made by His Majesty's Ministers to the Court of Directors; but that any further advices on the subject should of course be made known to the Government upon their receipt by us.

4. After considerable discussion, which will be fully detailed upon the departure of the Honourable Company's ship Bombay from hence at as early a period as possible, the Edict above alluded to was received from the Hoppo setting forth, in explicit terms, that no stoppage of the trade should recur after the arrival of the Honourable Company's ships at Whampoa, although a continuation of correspondence on the subject in question will probably occur.

The Factory will proceed to Canton on the 10th instant, and every exertion used for the early despatch of the Honourable Company's ships.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

Macao, 9th October 1823. } (signed) *J. N. Daniell*, Secretary.

EXTRACT LETTER to the Secret Commercial Committee of the Court of Directors, from the Select Committee at Canton, dated 20th November 1823.

From the Secret Commercial Committee, April 16, 1823.

Par. 2. IN accordance to the instructions of your Honourable Committee, we permitted the Honourable Company's ship Bombay to proceed to Whampoa under the usual orders; but shortly after her arrival there, upon the application of Captain Hine to land his private trade, permission was refused, and the Hong Merchants proceeded to Macao, bearing a letter from the Viceroy, demanding the cession of the "two murderers."

Statement, August 16, 17.

3. This demand we of course informed them could not be complied with; and we considered it the most advisable and conciliatory tone for adoption, to address the Viceroy, informing him that the non-arrival of Captain Richardson in England had prevented an investigation by the proper authorities; but that whenever we received a reply expressive of the result of such examination, we should not fail to make it known immediately to his Excellency.

Statement, Aug. 24.

Ditto.

4. The Viceroy, on the delivery of our reply, expressed himself in a very impassioned manner, threatening the Hong Merchants with punishment, and returned our letter. This at once placed a bar to all communications, and the request of the Hong Merchants, that we should so alter its purport, as to pass in silence the accusations implied against the party from the frigate, and thus receive the responsibility which the incorrect statement of the Viceroy had attached to him, was deemed inadmissible.

Statement, Aug. 29.

5. Our determination to adhere to the only grounds which could eventually exonerate us, although attended with an immediate disadvantage, placed the Hong Merchants

Merchants in so precarious a situation with respect to the Viceroy, that they expressed to us their determination of acquainting him they could no longer conduct the foreign trade under a responsibility for actions over which they could exercise no control.

Stoppage of Company's Trade.

6. Upon the declared resumption of offensive proceedings on the part of the Chinese Government, it became our object to place all the impediments in our power to their receipt of the pecuniary advantages attending the foreign commerce, as by occasioning a reciprocal sensation of the injury attending an embargo on our shipping, we were most likely to produce a speedy termination to it.

Death of a Chinese.

7. Acting upon this motive, we resolved to prevent any British vessel from entering the river; and issued orders to the commanders of the Honourable Company's ships to choose an anchorage in the neighbourhood of Lintin, but upon no account to permit any communication with that island.

Statement, Aug. 18.

8. The period at which the Hoppo was desirous of ascertaining the duties upon the foreign trade was fast approaching, and rendered him anxious for some opportunity of inducing the ships to enter the river, without compromising the Government as to their future operations, but having failed in so doing, and the Viceroy being sensible of the inconvenience attending the line of conduct we had preserved, and the little probability of a successful issue to his requisition, at length consented to permit the Hoppo to publish an Edict, disavowing their intention of placing any further embargo on the shipping now arrived, and inviting a resumption of commercial proceedings.

Statement, Sept. 17.

Statement, Sept. 23.

9. After the receipt of such a document, we immediately gave orders to the Commanders to proceed to Whampoa, and in a few days obtained a chop for the Factory to embark.

10. On our arrival at Canton, we found every thing had resumed its usual course, and the late subject of discussion apparently forgotten. The Merchants who had solemnly taken leave of us on foregoing any further commercial intercourse with the Honourable Company, were ready to congratulate us on what they termed the complete success of our negociation, and asserted that the affair was virtually terminated. Although it may be mentioned in the ensuing season, every successive notice will be weaker and weaker.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 16th November 1826.

Par. 6. SUBSEQUENTLY to this resolution which we had adopted, to leave unanswered the inquiries which the Viceroy had directed the Merchants to institute, they continued to express to us their great anxiety on the subject, and we accordingly deemed it advisable to communicate our opinions distinctly to the Senior Merchants on the occasion. We informed them, that as the transactions to which the Viceroy's Proclamation had reference had been referred to the British Government, and received their decision, they formed no longer a subject in which we had the ability to interfere. We deemed it right to acquaint them that a letter was now in our possession from the British Minister, to whom all transactions connected with the Lintin discussion had been referred, addressed to the Viceroy of Canton; and we acquainted them with the general tenor of Mr. Wynn's letter, dated 6th April 1824. We informed them that we had abstained from delivering this letter, from concluding that the discussion had been finally closed, but that if re-opened, our only course left to pursue would be to present the letter to the Viceroy. The Merchants expressed great alarm at this proposition, and entreated that such an intention might not for a moment be entertained. We endeavoured strongly to impress upon their minds that the letter from the President of the Board of Control explicitly declared that it was a question which could only be adjusted by the respective Governments of the two countries, and was no longer one in which we had the power to interfere. The Merchants had recourse to a variety of propositions, such as Chinese sophistry could alone suggest or attempt to justify. They stated that as it was a question involving Chinese prejudices and feelings, it was but just that it should be decided on Chinese principles, and that all that was required was an admission that punishment had been inflicted on those who had violated the laws of this country; that it was now immaterial whether that punishment had been inflicted or not, provided it was stated to have been. On

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such a course being declared inadmissible, they said that we must be aware that among the numbers of which a ship's company was composed, some must have died on the homeward voyage, and that we could find no difficulty in stating that such had actually been the case. This proposition was evidently made with the intention of making it appear that the deaths had been the consequence of criminal conduct. When we expressed to the Merchants our determination to have recourse to no such expedients, they proposed that we should state, that no final answer had as yet been received from England; that this would at all events gain time, and keep off for the present any further agitation of the question. These, and many other similar evasions were proposed by them, but on finding that we remained resolute in refusing to countenance any assertion whatever inconsistent with our knowledge of the facts, they expressed their apprehensions that embarrassments might arise were means not derived to satisfy the officers of Government. In this situation, therefore, the question remains, and we can only repeat to your Honourable Court our conviction, that it is not the intention of the Canton authorities to awaken serious or embarrassing discussions. At the same time, the experience of past years powerfully demonstrates that the measures to be adopted by a Government so little under the influence of public principle can never with any confidence be relied on.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors, dated 5th March 1827.

Par. 2. WE have lately been informed by Pinqua, who, in stating it to the President, requested it might be considered as a most confidential communication, that a memorial, signed by himself and Mowqua, had been privately presented to the Viceroy, containing an accurate statement of the facts of the case, that no punishment had by the British Government been awarded to those who, by the Chinese laws, had been pronounced to be guilty, and that any further power of interference with the question had been withdrawn from our hands, and that nothing but embarrassments could be the result of renewed discussion. We are now confidently assured, that no attention has been paid by the Viceroy to renewed petitions from the natives of Lintin, and that it is not his intention to re-open the question, being sensible that neither credit nor advantage can arise from it.

3. We have felt it our duty to place your Honourable Committee in possession of a knowledge of this circumstance, which is satisfactory, as being the probable conclusion of a tediously protracted and anxious discussion, while it exhibits a striking instance of the Government of this country (in a question involving its public honour), having submitted to be influenced by private information, and having been induced to relinquish those proud pretensions to unconditional submission, which it had previously so imperiously assumed.

(19.)—RESPECTING AN ATTEMPT OF SOME CHINESE TO EXTORT MONEY.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 12th January 1823.

Attempts of Chinese to extort Money.

Par. 2. WE regret to have to relate to your Honourable Court an attempt, of a very injurious tendency, to extort money from the Commander of the Honourable Company's ship Earl of Balcarras, under the pretext of the death of a Chinese having been occasioned by a blow from a piece of wood, thrown by some person on board that ship; but which affair was fortunately brought to a conclusion, by the free confession of the father of the deceased, that his son died from disease; and it was moreover discovered, that some scratches, inflicted on the head of the dying man, were done by a piece of chinaware, as evidence of the wounds they proposed to assert he had received.

3. It appeared by the evidence of Captains Cameron and Drummond, who was a witness of the transaction on the morning of the 6th instant, that two men brought a third in the last stage of disease, and continued for some time alongside the Earl of Balcarras, in defiance of repeated orders to depart; at length, a midshipman threw a piece of wood of about three inches in length, which fell on the

cover of the boat and then into the water, without touching any person. The men, apparently considering their object attained, picked up the piece of wood, rowed round the ship, and placed an almost lifeless body into the Comprodare's boat astern, demanding money as a compensation for imputed injury. The Assistant Surgeon of the Earl of Balcarras, upon inspecting the body, found the nose and the palate of the mouth were destroyed by disease; and that the man was on the point of death, without the appearance of any wounds that could have hastened it.

Attempts of Chinese to extort Money.

4. After some discussion with the two men, they left the ship and brought a third to aid their demands, whom they denominated a soldier; in conjunction with this person, they required 3,000 dollars, but said that the father of the invalid would shortly arrive, with whom they could arrange; previous to which the sick man died; and on the arrival of the father, Captain Cameron placed them all in custody, and proceeded to Canton in company with Captain Drummond, to report the circumstances to us. The line of conduct adopted by Captain Cameron, in securing the persons of the Chinese, gave great satisfaction to the Merchants, as they expressed, when the report was made to them.

5. We stated the case early in the following morning in an address to the Viceroy, but as he was then quitting Canton, he transferred its investigation to the Fooyuen. On the 7th the Quangchoo Foo went to the Second Bar, to examine the Chinese in custody, when the father immediately acknowledged that his son had died from the effect of disease, and unharmed by any blow from on board the Earl of Balcarras. The men engaged in this deception were brought up to Canton, and we have not as yet received intelligence of the punishment they are likely to undergo.

6. Events of this kind have not been uncommon amongst the American and country ships during the present season. The Chinese assault either the ships or their boats, and when they meet with return demand large sums of money for wounds, by working on their timidity to offend the recent Imperial Edict on the subject of the liability of foreigners to suffer death, even though the hazard of their own lives require their defence; the success their extortions have occasionally met with invite the return of new assaults.

7. That all ranks of Chinese are sensible of our situation in this respect, is too clearly evinced by the perpetrating of such dangerous impositions, by many in a very low class of life; and the reward that success in their demands sometimes affords is a sufficient inducement to attempt it, without any consideration as to the result occasioning consequences the most prejudicial to the commerce, and even to the lives of foreigners. It must be a matter of great satisfaction, that in this case the voluntary confession of the deceased's father, and the non-appearance of a serious wound, have placed insuperable impediments to hostile proceedings on the part of the officers of Government.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 31st January 1823.

Par. 3. WE have from time to time made inquiries on the subject of the punishment to be inflicted on those persons concerned in the attempt to extort money, under the pretence of murder, from the Honourable Company's ship Earl of Balcarras, and the present state of the case appears to be, that there is no defined law against the crime, and that the Fooyuen is awaiting the return of the Viceroy before proceeding to judgment.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 19th March 1825.

Par. 53. WE regret to inform your Honourable Court, that notwithstanding our earnest representations to the Hong Merchants of the evil consequences that must accrue, as well to themselves as to the Company, if means could not be found of severely punishing the persons here alluded to by way of example, the Merchants were unable or unwilling to compass this point.

54. The truth of our statement on the subject, we understand, was fully admitted, and the Merchants reported, that the Government was perfectly satisfied

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with the steps we took to exhibit the guilt of the offenders. The only punishment inflicted on this occasion was that of exposing one of the offenders in the streets with the cangue placed upon his neck; and the only reason assigned for the trifling nature of the punishment inflicted was, that the criminals were not considered guilty of a crime of any magnitude, as they had not absolutely received money from the persons whom they were endeavouring to injure and deceive.

(20.)—RESPECTING THE CONDUCT OF THE CHINESE CUSTOM-HOUSE PEOPLE AT MACAO.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 16th November 1827.

Conduct of the Custom House People at Macao.

Par. 47. ON our Public Consultations under date the 7th and 12th of June, will be found an account of an outrage committed by the people belonging to the Macao Custom-house, at all times a most offensive establishment, upon a boat belonging to a member of this Factory, which, on our representing the affair to the Iso-tong, we were informed was redressed.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 18th November 1828.

Par. 68. THE aggressions of the people attached to the Macao Custom-house upon the Praza Grande, have been long a subject of vexatious annoyance to passengers proceeding to and from India. On the occasion of the embarkation of Messrs. Marjoribanks, Clarke and Ravenshaw for Bombay in the commencement of this year, the acts of the Runners attached to this establishment were carried to an unusual pitch of annoyance, in which they were headed and encouraged by their principal.

Public Consultations, 9 July.

69. The numerous discussions in which the Government was engaged at the period referred to, rendered it an unfavourable occasion for bringing the aggressions of the Macao Custom-house people to their notice. We therefore deferred it until the agitation produced by the several topics under their consideration had subsided, and laid the subject before their notice in the commencement of the month of July.

70. In the first instance the Viceroy treated our representations with a coolness amounting to contempt, and even directed the Merchants to remodel our address, and render it more agreeable to his views of the question. We were however informed by the Merchants, that a Wei-yune or officer deputed by Government upon a special service, had been despatched to Macao to inquire into the afiair. The progress of this officer's proceedings are detailed under date 24th July, upon our Public Consultations, but their result became more evident upon the publication of an Edict from the Viceroy, recorded under date 1st August, which reprehends the conduct of the Macao Custom-house people, and directs the apprehension of the offenders for examination.

Public Consultations, 19 July.

Public Consultations, 4 August.

71. An unsatisfactory Edict was issued by the Hoppo about the same time, which, referring the question to old established custom, in fact, left us exposed to the same irregular and undefined extortions which formed the subject of our complaint.

Public Consultations, 5 August.

72. A second Proclamation of the Viceroy seemed to promise the most favourable results. This order entirely restricted the license of the Custom-house to strict search, and the charges of the Porters to the customary wages given by natives for the conveyance of goods. The contents of this Edict appeared the most clear and explicit that we had ever received in favour of the rights of foreigners; but we fear the result has proved that it can only be quoted as a confirmation, that although this Government may, when urged by reiterated complaints, feel themselves compelled to espouse the cause of foreigners ostensibly in their proclamations, an understanding still exists that aggressions, when not carried to a length which involves the party concerned in a serious charge of disturbing the public tranquillity, will be winked at by the superior officers, and that a system of extortion obtains a tacit license, wherever a situation under the Government which affords

affords the means of exercising it is purchased, and we believe this to be the case with all public offices.

73. For facts which support this observation, we beg to refer your Honourable Court to two cases which appear upon our Consultations under date the 10th September. In the former of these the crew of a boat belonging to a Free Trader lying in Macao Roads was attacked by the Runners of the Custom-house while carrying some fresh provisions down to the beach. A sum of money was demanded, and upon the refusal of the crew to comply, the Chinese proceeded to use force, from which the boat's crew, composed only of a few boys and a mate, were compelled to escape by the means which offered themselves. On the second occasion quoted, a lady landing from a country vessel was detained on board the boat which brought her on shore for upwards of two hours, the Custom-house people refusing her permission to land, or what amounts to the same thing, not allowing any boat to approach for the purpose of her disembarkation.

Conduct of the Custom House People at Macao.

74. Although little advantage could be expected from fresh representations to the Government, with such glaring instances of violation of the orders so recently issued before our eyes, we considered it our duty to state the facts as they occurred to the Viceroy, which will at any rate relieve us from the charge of passing these aggressions unnoticed, should any unfortunate result ensue from the repeated misconduct of the Chinese attached to the Custom-house. We shall therefore continue to give the Government warning upon every fresh occasion of offence, and the blame attached to refusing to adopt the necessary measures for securing public tranquillity must rest with them.

75. The disposition of these people to give further annoyance has been shown in charges of smuggling, which have been preferred against the Commanders of our ships upon the occasion of landing the Company's packets and personal baggage of the gentlemen of the Factory who returned to China this season. These accusations have been contradicted by us, and the facts explained.

Public Consultations. 4 & 16 Sept. 1828.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Separate Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 28th December 1830.

Par. 34. IT is with much satifaction we inform your Honourable Court that we have had no reason during the last year to complain of the custom-house at Macao. The strong Edict of the Viceroy referred to in the margin, which we were careful to make as public as possible by every means in our power, seems to have had its effect in repressing the voracious exactions of those who farm that custom station from the Hoppo; but we have been given to understand that this effect has been aided by an annual present from the Consoo, in lieu of the profits which have been abandoned.

(21.)—RESPECTING THE RIGHT OF THE SUPRACARGOES TO ADDRESS THE OFFICERS OF THE CANTON GOVERNMENT.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 17th November 1825.

Part of Par. 3. WE beg to attract the attention of your Honourable Court to two Edicts from the Viceroy and Hoppo, recorded in our Consultations under date the 1st and 20th October, which take a short review of the character of foreigners engaged in the commerce with China. At the present period, when so much has been said of the evils which result from the monopoly of the East India Company, it may at least be a source of satisfaction to those who regard it only as a national question, that the principles of equity and liberality on which your affairs have been conducted, have enabled your representatives to establish a character which has been distinguished by the Government of this country from that of other foreigners engaged in commercial transactions, and has even called forth a description of approving acknowledgment rarely and reluctantly bestowed on matters foreign to the native and internal concerns of the empire. It will be perceived by your Honourable Court that the right of addressing the officers of the Canton Government is by these proclamations declared to belong exclusively to ourselves, and this we must ever consider a privilege of the highest possible importance.

Right of Addressing the Canton Government.

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EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 16th November 1827.

Redress of Grievances, &c.

Par. 44. WE have no cause to complain of the conduct of the present officers at the head of affairs. It will be observed, that redress was afforded by a notification from the Hoppo of an offensive nature when complained of. This officer had a relation high in the Imperial administration, who has lately been dismissed, and he himself will leave his present office in January next.

(22.)—RESPECTING THE USE OF, AND CHARGES FOR, BOATS BETWEEN CANTON AND MACAO.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 17th November 1825.

Charges for Boats.

Par. 119. THE exorbitant charges and duties which have for many years been levied on chop boats passing between Canton and Macao, and the refusal of the Government to admit the legal employment by foreigners of boats of smaller dimensions, has long been a source of great expense and serious inconvenience. It will be seen on our records that a body of the British agents in Canton, accompanied by other foreigners, having ineffectually applied to the Merchants upon this subject, proceeded to the city with a petition to the Viceroy, the result of which was a guarantee on the part of the Merchants, that, with the exception of the hire of the boat, they were willing to take all other charges upon themselves. In a future proclamation from the Hoppo, the use of fast boats between Canton and Macao was declared to be legal; and an Edict from the Viceroy, in reply to an address presented to him by us upon the subject, distinctly prohibited the extortion of money under any pretences. To the Hong Merchants we owe the old system, which has existed for half a century; to the present favourable disposition of the Viceroy, who appears to have been solely governed by a principle of justice, we are indebted for its abolition, although confirmed by prescriptive usage and long continuance. It shall be our earnest endeavour to act upon the proclamation of the Viceroy, and resolutely to withstand, under its sanction, all attempts which may be made to re-establish the old system, which has now by authority of the Government been abolished.

Consultations, 11 & 18 June, and 15 July 1825.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 10th March 1826.

Par. 16. WE this day assembled the Hong Merchants for the purpose, amongst other subjects, of calling their attention to the high charges and duties to which foreigners were still subjected in the employment of chop boats, and requiring of them to furnish us with an accurate statement of their legal amount. They gave us every assurance of their assistance; and should the result of their inquiries exhibit a high rate of charges, it will then remain for our consideration to address the Government upon the subject; and as the present Viceroy of Canton has shown every disposition to discountenance undue extortion on the part of the inferior Mandarins, we should be led to expect a favourable issue to such an application.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 16th November 1827.

Par. 52. IN the case above noticed, the expenses taken from Europeans have been transferred to the Merchants and to the general trade in the result. Howqua having influence to persuade the Merchants to continue the illegal fees to the subordinate officers in preference to exciting their enmity.

(23.)—RESPECTING AN ATTACK ON CAPTAIN WALKER IN CANTON.

Attack on Captain Walker.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 8th December 1826.

Par. 4. A VERY unprovoked attack having been made in the streets of Canton by two low Chinese upon Captain Walker, who received a very severe contusion on the head, we deemed it advisable, with a view at the same time to punish the aggressors and to prevent the recurrence of such acts, which are so liable to terminate in serious disturbances, to address the Viceroy on the subject. We took occasion also to mention, that several low spirit-shops in the neighbourhood of the Factories had become a very serious evil, as Chinese belonging to them were constantly on the watch for all sailors landing from boats, who were enticed into these shops, and that drunkenness and loss of health were too often the consequence. We are happy to have had redress upon both these subjects, by the punishment of the persons guilty of the assault upon Captain Walker, and by the retail spirit-shops being shut up by order of the Government.

(24.)—RESPECTING THE HOPPO CHARGING THE SUPRACARGOES WITH CONTRABAND PRACTICES.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 10th October 1827.

Charges of Contraband Practices.

Par. 23. SHORTLY after the arrival of the first ships of this season, we applied for the usual permit for Mr. Millett to proceed to Canton, to commence the unloading of the Honourable Company's chartered ships Alfred and Broxbornebury, whose despatch we wished to effect in the commencement of this month. The necessary license was issued from the Hoppo's office for the object required; but an Edict accompanied it, which, while it censured the application for a single boat, and directed that foreigners should proceed in fleets to Canton to obviate the inconvenience resulting to the public offices from numerous applications for permits, proceeded further to inculcate the necessity of a strict surveillance upon the Custom-house officers between Canton and Macao, and to throw out most undeserved insinuations against the well known probity of the Honourable Company's servants.

24. In consequence of these reflections cast by his Excellency upon the long-established character of the Honourable Company's Factory in this country, we considered it necessary to forward an address to him, dated 20th August, disclaiming the charge of contraband practices made upon us, and expostulating upon the general tenor of his Edict. We at the same time quoted those parts of his Excellency's predecessor's Edicts, which bore testimony to the good conduct of the Honourable Company's representatives in China.

25. This address was returned from the Hoppo's office with a second Edict, dated 28th August, which inculcated the necessity of rescinding the privilege which has been long granted and confirmed to us, of corresponding with this Government in the Chinese language. Howqua having undertaken to represent, in the name of the Hong, our claim to this mode of communication, established by Government Edicts in the year 1814, we did not consider it necessary to return any immediate answer to his Excellency's Edict.

26. The effect of Howqua's representations was seen in a third Edict from the Hoppo, dated the 31st August, couched in a conciliatory tone, and denying the intentional implication of the Company's servants in the insinuations against foreigners. Although this assertion is at variance with truth it is satisfactory to us to perceive that this officer is disposed to adopt a favourable line of conduct towards us, and we trust we shall experience more urbanity in our future transactions with his Excellency's officer than we were at first inclined to anticipate.

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(25.)—RESPECTING THE ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF A CHINESE ON BOARD A COUNTRY SHIP.

Death of a Chinese on board a Country Ship.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 30th November 1827.

Par. 4. UPON the 26th instant Captain Charles Clarke, the Commander of the country ship Golconda, waited upon the Select Committee to inform them of the following unfortunate accident:

5. The Golconda, on the morning of the 26th instant, while dropping down Whampoa Reach, had fallen on board the American ship Caledonia; a hawser was carried out to the country ship Charles Forbes, for the purpose of clearing the vessels. The hawser upon being hove upon, parted, and struck a Chinese carpenter, who was at the time sitting on the forecastle. Captain Clarke, on being informed of the circumstance, instantly repaired to the place, but found that life was already extinct; the body was removed below, and the remaining Chinese workmen detained as evidences of the fact. Captain Clarke requested our advice and interference.

6. Kinqua, the Security-merchant of the Golconda, was requested to attend the Committee, and directed to despatch a confidential person without delay to Whampoa, for the purpose of inquiring into the affair, and taking immediate steps to prevent its progress. He proposed an application to the Mandarin at Whampoa, stated to be made at the suggestion of the Committee, for permission to the relations of the deceased to receive and bury the body, which arrangement appearing the most eligible mode of adjustment, and showing that we entertained no wish to conceal the fact, was approved by us, as well as by Howqua, who was present upon this occasion.

7. Kinqua called on the 28th instant to state, that the people attached to the Hoppo boat of the Golconda had reported the circumstance to the Puan-yu or District Magistrate; but on the arrival of Kinqua's cousin, who was despatched from Canton to negociate in this affair, the relations of the deceased had been induced by pecuniary persuasion to address a counter petition to the District Magistrate, requesting that the body might be returned to them; the nephew stating his conviction that the death was purely accidental.

8. Nothing further has transpired connected with this affair; but from the assurances of Kinqua, and the plain evidence in favour of the casual nature of the event, we trust that no further inconvenience need be anticipated from the final result, which will be communicated to your Honourable Court by the earliest opportunity.

20. Since writing the above paragraphs, Captain Clarke, the Commander of the country ship Golconda, called upon Mr. Plowden, and informed him that the Puan-yu, or District Magistrate, had yesterday visited the ship for the purpose of holding an inquest on the body of the deceased Chinese who accidentally was killed on board on the 26th instant; the relatives of the deceased were also in attendance, and having declared it to be their belief, that the deceased had died from the blow of the hawser in its violent recoil after parting in two, and not from any other cause; and, moreover, having declared they were quite satisfied in this point, they were required by the Mandarin to make an affidavit to this effect, and to swear to it in the usual form adopted on these occasions, by the imposition of a coloured impression of their hands on the statement; after which they were permitted to retire, and to carry away the body with them for interment.

21. Kinqua afterwards attended, and informed Mr. Plowden that the Puan-yu had immediately proceeded into the city to the Viceroy, after his return from Whampoa, in order to communicate his proceedings to that officer. Nothing further has transpired; but Kinqua's impression is, that the affair will terminate here without any trouble or difficulty.

22. It is with sincere pleasure we communicate to your Honourable Court this account of the apparent termination of this event; and we trust, by our next despatch, to be able to report its final adjustment.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 3d December 1827.

Death of a Chinese on board a Country Ship.

Par. 6. NOTHING further having transpired respecting the accident on board the Golconda at Whampoa, we have every reason to hope the affair has terminated with the inquest held on the body of the deceased on the 1st instant.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 12th December 1827.

Par. 3. WE are happy to inform your Honourable Court, that the affair of the accidental death of a Chinese on board the country ship Golconda, communicated in our letter dated the 30th ultimo, was finally closed as stated in the concluding paragraphs of that letter. The easy adjustment of this accident may be considered a proof of the alteration which has taken place in the minds of the Chinese upon these subjects as regards foreigners, and the different light in which they are now disposed to view an accidental death from that which characterised them in our early intercourse with this country.

(26.)—RESPECTING THE INFRINGEMENT OF CERTAIN PRIVILEGES.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 18th Nov. 1828.

Infringement of Privileges.

Par. 41. WE have experienced in the present season a disposition, on the part of the Chinese Local Government, to rescind privileges of an established character, and to treat representations which we have found it necessary to make to them, with such indifference, as compelled us at last to have recourse to a mode of drawing their attention to our statements, which we hope has proved effectual, and will prevent the repetition of similar conduct towards us in future. We shall have the honour to state the progress of these proceedings to your Honourable Court in the following paragraphs.

42. In the month of July, having had occasion to address the Government on the subject of the extortions practised by the people of the Macao Custom-house, (the result of which we shall have the honour to state in a subsequent part of this letter), we were much surprised to learn from the Merchants that the Vice-roy had refused to receive our statement, and had returned it to them, with directions to open and alter it in a manner which better suited his own views. Public Consultations, 19 July 1828.

43. Upon this occasion we presented a second statement to the Viceroy, disavowing any sentiments which might have been inserted in our former address by the Merchants, and informing him that our seal and signatures being always affixed to our communications, we begged that his Excellency would consider none as emanating from us which did not bear those marks of authenticity.

44. Shortly after the arrival of the Factory in Canton, a packet of letters to our address was seized by the Poon-qu-yune, a magistrate of the Whampoa District, upon the person of the Compradore of the Orwell, who was conveying the packet from that ship to the Company's Factory. This circumstance having been stated by us to the Viceroy, that officer, in reply, justified the conduct of the Poon-yu-yune, and directed that in future all letters sent from our ships should be subjected to examination. This answer of the Viceroy, instead of being transmitted through the usual channel of the Merchants, was pasted up on the walls of our Factory by authority, a measure evidently calculated to depreciate the foreign character in the eyes of the Chinese. Public Consultations, 4 Oct. 1828. Public Consultations, 6 Oct. 1828. Public Consultations, 10 Oct. 1828.

45. An Edict was issued about the same time, restricting the excursions of boats upon the river, which amusement being the sole opportunity we possess of enjoying fresh air and exercise, we felt by no means disposed to submit to without remonstrance. The authority also conferred, by this Proclamation, on the river police to give annoyance to foreign boats passing between Canton and Whampoa, was likely to lead to disturbances, which we felt it to be our duty to prevent by a proper representation of the facts. Public Consultations, 7 Oct. 1828.

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46. While these circumstances were under our consideration, it came to our knowledge that a Proclamation of a most grossly abusive nature had been issued by the Viceroy and Hoppo, calculated to degrade the foreign character to the lowest degree in the eyes of the natives. This Proclamation we have alluded to, but not recorded, on our Public Consultations under date the 14th October.

47. After a mature deliberation upon the grievances which we have detailed in the preceding paragraphs, we came to a determination that it was incumbent upon us to meet them by a strong remonstrance, calculated to put a stop to further aggression, experience having proved that nothing can be expected to be obtained from the Chinese by concession, which only becomes an inducement to attempt further invasion of privileges.

Public Consultations, 14 Oct. 1828.

48. We therefore drew up an address to the Viceroy, in which we stated the absolute necessity of a communication with our ships by letter, which could be easiest effected by the employing Chinese boats; that if his Excellency refused his permission for that mode of conveyance we must have recourse to the use of ship-boats, the crews of which we were at all times most desirous to keep away from Canton, and to which we should most unwillingly resort.

49. We also represented to his Excellency that the recreation taken by foreigners upon the river could not be viewed merely as an amusement. The heat and confined air of our Factories is highly injurious to the health of Europeans, situated, as they are, in the suburbs of a populous city; no liberty beyond the precints of the Factory being permitted by land, we possess no means of escaping from the inconveniences above specified, excepting by excursions in boats upon the river; and while that amusement is conducted within reasonable limits, it appears a harsh measure to restrict it.

50. In noticing the opprobrious proclamation of the Viceroy alluded to in a preceding paragraph, we confined ourselves to stating that such proclamations were ill adapted to conciliate the feelings of foreigners. We also took the opportunity of remarking, that his Excellency's predecessor had adopted a very different line of conduct towards foreigners, having interdicted, by an Edict, the practices of abuse and insult carried on by the Chinese on the river, as likely to irritate and lead to disturbance. We regretted to observe that the present Viceroy's acts were calculated to excite animosity.

51. Having combined these several subjects of complaint in one statement, we accompanied them by such observations as we considered appropriate to the subject, and delivered them to the Merchants for presentation to the Viceroy.

52. We were informed, the day after our representation was drawn up, that the Viceroy refused to receive it, adding, that no necessity existed for presenting petitions. Upon the receipt of this intelligence we were compelled to adopt the mode of bringing our grievances to his Excellency's notice, which has been resorted to formerly on similar occasions; viz. that of carrying our address to the city gates, and presenting it in person.

53. We therefore requested Captain Hamilton to select such people from the boats' crews in Canton as were considered men of respectable and orderly behaviour, and desired him to accompany Mr. Davis, who took charge of our letter to the city. A sufficient number of the officers of the Honourable Company's ships were also in attendance to control the conduct of the seamen. This party, having proceeded to one of the city gates, and given notice of the object of their mission to the guards stationed there, (for which purpose slips of paper, with an inscription in Chinese, signifying that they came to present an address in a quiet, orderly manner, were distributed amongst them), a Mandarin was shortly despatched to meet them, and receive their communication, upon which they returned to the Factories.

54. Your Honourable Court will observe, under date 18th October of our Public Consultations, the Viceroy's reply to the representation alluded to in the preceding paragraph. This Edict, we consider, may be viewed as favourable, although a defensive tone is assumed in it: the principal points of our representation are conceded. We had also the satisfaction to observe practical symptoms of a disposition to accommodate matters, in a deputation which immediately followed of the Nam-hoy-zune to our Factories, to give directions for the renewal of the works upon our landing place, which were forthwith resumed. We hope, therefore, that the Viceroy has been convinced by the proceeding we adopted, of the impolicy of giving unnecessary annoyance to foreigners, and that occasion will not again occur for resorting to an expedient to which we always most unwillingly have recourse.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 18th Nov. 1828.

Infringement of Privileges.

Par. 37. WE shall always feel pleasure in noticing the conciliatory conduct of the officers of the Government. Having had reason lately to complain of very opposite treatment from them, accompanied by an evident disposition to vilify the foreign character and degrade it in Chinese estimation, we forwarded a remonstrance, couched in such firm but respectful language as, we trust, will produce a better feeling towards us in the Viceroy. The immediate result of our address, and the manner of its presentation was evinced, in the temperate reply from that officer, recorded under date 18th October last.

(27.)—RESPECTING THE STATE OF THE FOREIGN TRADE WITH CANTON, AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL HONG MERCHANTS.

Foreign Trade with Canton.

New Hongs.

Public Department,	8th October 1829,	Paragraph	3 a'	17.
Ditto - -	15th — - -	—	1 a'	5.
Ditto - -	23d November - -	—	3 a'	27.
Ditto - -	30th — - -	—	3 a'	13.
Ditto - -	14th December - -	—	4 a'	12.
Ditto - -	29th — - -	—	3 a'	12.

For these paragraphs, see letters adverted to, presented to the Select Committee the 3d June 1830.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 28th January 1830.

Par. 3. WE stated in the 9th to the 12th paragraph of the despatch above referred to, our intention to make a final attempt to procure redress for the embarrassments of the trade, by application to the local authorities of Canton, in an appeal to the newly arrived Hoppo, or Commissioner of Customs. This resolution was carried into effect, and we beg to refer your Honourable Court to our Secret Consultations of 25th December 1829, for the address presented by us to that officer.

4. We regret to state, that the Hoppo's reply declared his determination to adhere to the decision formerly passed upon our representations by the Viceroy, and promised no improvement to the embarrassed situation of affairs.

Secret Consultations, 6 Jan. 1830.

5. Having received what appeared at that time to be the final reply of the local authorities, without an appearance of concession on any point, it became a subject of the most weighty consideration, whether we should resume commercial intercourse, or whether, in accordance with the tenor of our professions, we should continue to abstain from such intercourse. A question which embraces the interest of the Honourable Company, and of a large body of the British mercantile community, could not be viewed without a deep sense of the responsibility incurred in forming our decision. We endeavoured to view the subject with the strictest impartiality of feeling, and hope we have selected that course which is best calculated to place this trade on a firm foundation. In deciding our choice at so important a crisis, we have felt it a duty not to limit our views to the object of loading the Honourable Company's ships for the present season, which would be dearly attained at the risk of incurring permanent and irremediable impediments to commerce. It has been our earnest endeavour to secure solid advantages to our honourable employers, which might prove the basis of prosperity to their affairs in this country for successive years.

6. We felt it incumbent upon us, as a preliminary step, to review the series of our correspondence with this Government, and have now the honour to state the inferences which we have drawn from it.

Secret Consultations, 11 Jan. 1830.

Part of Par. 7. The disinclination evinced by the officers of Government to grant any new privileges to the foreign trade might naturally have been expected, where both their own private interests and their national prejudice against innovation were to be

Secret Consultations, 20 Nov. and 5 Dec.

overcome; but the contempt shown to the orders of the Emperor for the establishment of new Hongs, by the promulgation of Edicts by the local government, without any intention to act upon the professions contained in them, has been a subject of surprise, and what we certainly had not anticipated.

Par. 15. Our influence with the Chinese Government being purely of a commercial nature, has been hitherto supported by the apprehension of the withdrawal of the trade. This influence has been supported entirely by opinion, but has proved so strong as to preponderate in all differences of a serious nature. Whether the suspension of commercial intercourse has originated with the one party or the other, the risk and responsibility of losing a valuable trade has ultimately preponderated over all other considerations in the minds of the local authorities. Through the influence of this principle, skilfully directed, the interests of our honourable employers have been hitherto preserved, and an effectual resistance opposed to the encroaching spirit of a venal government.

16. A combination of circumstances has rendered the employment of this powerful weapon, the suspension of trade, necessary. We had hoped, from the tone in which the Government replied to our representations at the commencement of the discussion, that we should be able to report to your Honourable Court some favourable circumstances at an earlier period; but notwithstanding our declaration of the impossibility of entering on commercial intercourse till the Hong was relieved from its embarrassed condition, and our reiterated representations to that effect, an apathetic indifference characterized the policy of the Government, and no impression seemed to be produced. If, after taking up such grounds, we had consented to recede, and trade upon the terms dictated by our opponents, no hope could have been entertained of resisting their encroachments for the future. Suspension of intercourse would hereafter be looked upon as a vain threat, and the only course left to us be implicit submission to the will of the victors. The Cohong system being put in force in its most obnoxious form, would sap the foundation of the Honourable Company's trade, while all resistance would be rendered hopeless. The opinion of the firmness and integrity of the representatives of the Honourable Company in this country, which has hitherto proved an effectual check to the inroads of avarice and oppression, would lose its influence. The Chinese Government would acquire the lamentable conviction, that this trade, being indispensable to foreigners, could be conducted according to the dictates of their own interests. They would proceed under this impression to additional acts of extortion, which the absence of the moral influence that has hitherto operated as a check, would reach such a point as to render the continuance of the trade impracticable, without recourse to measures of a desperate nature.

17. From this we were led to the reflection, that a serious loss of time, and heavy expense, had already been incurred in sustaining the discussion to the period when it became necessary to determine whether we should abandon or maintain our position. Was this to be a useless sacrifice, without the attainment of any corresponding recompense? Could we hope, even in submitting to it, that the trade would be satisfactorily conducted under the system to which it would be reduced. Our experience of Chinese character forbade us to entertain such an expectation; and we could only contemplate the certainty of being compelled to renew the struggle hereafter, and at no distant period, under increased difficulties and embarrassments.

18. We confidently trust, that an impartial view of both sides of this intricate question will lead your Honourable Court to the conviction which it produced in our minds. We came to the conclusion, that a perseverance in the course hitherto pursued offered, of two evils, the least to our choice, and we determined to abstain from trade till some favourable alteration in the terms upon which it was offered rendered it worthy of acceptance. The more important, the more valuable the interests at stake, the more do they require the protection of firmness, on which our hopes of their security for the future can alone be placed with confidence. We considered that we stood on high grounds on the present occasion, and that our grievances, when brought to the notice of the Court of Pekin, could not fail to meet attention and receive redress. The resistance of the local government to the commands of their superiors, and the frauds practised upon foreigners, with the connivance of the Canton authorities, in such instances as those of the bankruptcy of Manhop, and the removal of property by the retired partner of the Hong of Chunqua, could not fail to be seriously viewed by a Government always jealous to preserve the integrity of its authority, and unwilling to permit claims to exist against

against it on the part of foreigners. These, while they destroy all pretensions to the administration of impartial justice, compromise at the same time the dignity of the Empire.

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19. Having given the subject the most deliberate attention, and we need hardly assure your Honourable Court, that it has caused the deepest anxiety in our minds, we came to the determination of preparing our ships to leave the port, being convinced that their presence encouraged the opinion that we had not seriously resolved to act upon the professions which we had held out to the Government, and that no hopes of an accommodation could be entertained till the apprehensions of the Chinese were excited for the withdrawal of the trade. At the same time, we took measures for the despatch of two of our ships to different parts of the coast, for the purpose of presenting memorials, addressed to the Emperor of China, upon the embarrassments of the British trade to Canton.

New Hongs.

Part of Par. 20. Being resolved, however, to lose no chance of a favourable turn in affairs, which might avert the necessity of recourse to the extreme measure of the removal of our ships, we drew up a Memorial to the Emperor of China, stating in a general manner the grievances for which we solicited redress, and having enclosed one copy of it under a seal to the Viceroy, and one to the Hoppo, we forwarded them to Canton, in the charge of a gentleman of the Factory, attended by a party of Commanders, officers and seamen of our ships, with orders to deliver them at the gates of the city. This duty was performed on the 18th instant, and the addresses were received by an inferior officer of the Government. We shall have the honour to detail to your Honourable Court the result of this mission in a subsequent part of this despatch; and will only remark here, that it has been of a nature sufficiently satisfactory to induce us to postpone the adoption of the measures to which we have alluded in the preceding paragraph, though we cannot state at the present moment that the necessity of such a course has been removed.

Secret Consultations, 11 Jan. 1830.

Par. 30. On the 23d instant replies were received from the Viceroy and Hoppo to our addresses, enclosing memorials to be transmitted to the Emperor of China. The communication of the Hoppo is in unison with the former Edicts of that officer, as regards its general import; but it returns the memorial to the Emperor, and states as a reason for this proceeding, that the mode of presenting it was irregular.

No. 1 & 2, of Secret Packet, per Bridgewater.

31. The Viceroy has also returned the memorial to the Emperor, alleging the same reason for his refusal to transmit it to Court as has been given by the Hoppo. The tone, however, which pervades the Proclamation of the former officer is of the most conciliatory nature, and when put in comparison with the last communication received from him, in which any further attention to our representations was peremptorily refused, may, we hope, be assumed as proof that a considerable change has taken place in his sentiments.

Secret Consultations, 9 Dec. 1829.

32. We forbear to offer a decisive opinion upon a document, which must be judged rather by its general tenor than by the precise signification of its contents. It has, however, afforded us this consolatory reflection, that the door is again opened to negociation, and we have taken advantage of this circumstance in the manner which we think offers the best chance of bringing matters to a satisfactory termination, if the professions contained in his Excellency's Edict prove sincere.

33. The real substance of the Viceroy's Proclamation may be summed up as follows:

That an express has been despatched to the province in which the elder Chunqua now resides, to cause his immediate return.

That candidates have offered themselves for the situation of Hong Merchants.

That the creditors of Hong Merchants may meet together, make up their accounts, and claim payment. This we conceive to have reference to the debts of the Hong of Chunqua.

And, that the Emperor's orders have been received, sanctioning a modification and reduction of the present paid upon entering the port.

34. In noticing our request to be allowed to rent warehouses, the Viceroy has adhered to his former refusal to grant that point, but he has given the most positive assurances for the security of property lodged in the Hongs of the Chinese Merchants, who, he has most distinctly declared, are liable to the risk of fire, water, thieves, and every earthly calamity that can occur to goods confided to their charge. As regards the security of property, we are not aware that in any part of the world it exists upon more favourable terms than those, to the importer. And although

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although the object of conducting commercial dealings independently of the medium of the Hongs is not positively gained by this arrangement, it seems probable that much may be effected by an inclination on the part of the Foreign and Chinese Merchant to consult mutual accommodation. We feel, therefore, that we must remain satisfied with the Viceroy's decision upon this point, and exclude it in subsequent negociation from the list of demands.

35. The Edict to which we are referring concludes by general assurances of a desire to accommodate, and quotes the orders of the Emperor expressive of the same purpose, and an inclination to encourage the peaceable conduct of foreign commerce.

36. The circumstances of the change of tone adopted by the Government when an impression has been excited that our ships would leave the port, coupled with the disinclination evinced to receive our memorials to the Emperor, lead us to draw the inference that instructions have actually been transmitted from the Court of Pekin to adjust the discussion upon fair and reasonable terms; and that the local government has been forced to the disclosure of this fact by our demonstration of recourse to extreme measures.

37. It is a remarkable point that the date referred to in the Viceroy's Edict, as that of the arrival of the express from Pekin, should be the very day upon which the delivery of our memorials at the city gates took place. This circumstance would fairly warrant the conjecture that the Government has wished to make it appear that the alteration in their tone preceded, and was not the effect of that measure. A more distant date could not be named, for it might fairly be asked, why were the Imperial orders concealed? It had moreover been asserted by the Merchants in Canton, on the very day that the occurrence took place, that the despatch from Pekin could not be expected in less than a fortnight. The cause and effect are too nearly allied by appearances to admit of much doubt respecting their real connection.

N° 3, Secret Packet, per Bridgewater.

38. Our reply to the Viceroy, to which we beg to draw your Honourable Court's attention, has been carefully drawn up with the object of demonstrating to his Excellency that while we have every wish to meet the conciliatory feelings exhibited in his proclamation, by a reciprocal desire of amicable adjustment, we are in no way disposed to swerve from the resolution which was communicated to the Government at the time when we presented our memorials to the Emperor; and that our resort to extreme measures is merely postponed, under the impression that his Excellency meditates a reasonable accommodation.

39. An appearance of anxiety has been evinced by the Viceroy to receive our answer, in the deputation of a Government Linguist to proceed in charge of his Excellency's communication to Macao, and await our reply, which will be made with as little delay as possible.

EXTRACT LETTER (Secret and Confidential) from the Select Committee at Canton to the Chairman of the Court of Directors, dated 31st Jan. 1830.

WE perceive, in the Viceroy's last answer to our address, in the peculiar way in which it was forwarded to us, and in the marked manner in which he voluntarily re-opens the negociations which he had himself closed, by refusing to receive our addresses, the good effect that has been produced by our last measure of presenting our petition for the Emperor at the city gate. We believe now that the Government is convinced that we are in earnest; and we also believe that the Viceroy is disposed to grant such terms as we shall be able to accept. So strong is our conviction on this point, that were we contending with any other than this peculiar people, we believe an arrangement might take place very shortly.

We have every reason to hope we shall be enabled to restore the Hong to its original number of 12 or 13; and should our efforts prove successful, we shall consider the Company's trade with China rescued from a state of peril, the greatest perhaps it has ever been exposed to.

We have before observed, that we believe the Viceroy will grant such concessions as we can accept; but the greatest caution is necessary on our parts; too much anxiety evinced would infallibly tend to make him recede; the policy of the Government appears to be to grant nothing beyond what necessity obliges them to do, even in things most trivial.

We

We do not consider we are too sanguine in expressing our hope, that in three weeks the ships will be at Whampoa.

We have been informed, that at this moment respectable men are ready to be made Hong Merchants, but that the Viceroy and Hoppo, in defiance of their positive declarations to the contrary, still endeavour to extort an exorbitant fee, to the collective amount of 50,000 dollars for each Hong. We look to this difficulty being overcome, now that the Government are convinced of the necessity of the case.

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New Hongs.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 10th Feb. 1830.

Par. 2. WE have great satisfaction in communicating to your Honourable Court the intelligence that an accommodation has been effected, with reference to the discussion in which we have been engaged with the Chinese Government, and that the Honourable Company's ships received our orders to enter the river upon the 6th instant.

3. We shall have the honour to detail to your Honourable Court the particular circumstances of this arrangement at a future opportunity.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 23d February 1830.

Par. 2. WE have now the satisfaction to inform your Honourable Court, that in consequence of an arrangement that has been effected with the Government of Canton, the Honourable Company's ships received our orders to enter the river and commence the immediate discharge of their cargoes on the 6th instant. We shall have the honour to detail the circumstances which have given rise to this resolution.

3. Upon the 1st of this month the Hong Merchants arrived at Macao, but without any official deputation from the Government. Their ostensible motive for visiting this place was to take leave of Mr. Plowden, who had embarked for England the day preceding their arrival. They informed us, that an answer might be daily expected from the Viceroy to our last address; upon which, we declined to enter into any discussion with them respecting our future proceedings.

Secret Consultations, 25 Jan. 1830.

4. Upon the 5th instant, a Proclamation was received from the Viceroy through the Merchants, which will be found in our Secret Consultations under the same date.

No. 1, of this Packet.

5. The general tenor of this document is of the most conciliatory nature, as well as that previously received from his Excellency, and recorded upon the 25th ultimo; both lead to the conclusion that the Government are extremely desirous to preserve the tranquillity which has usually attended the conduct of the trade; and perhaps upon the present occasion have evinced a greater anxiety to restore it to its ordinary course than they have hitherto permitted themselves to disclose.

6. The Viceroy's Edict informs us that one new Hong has already been established, and that other persons have requested to be allowed to enter the Hong; that he not only is desirous of increasing the number of Merchants to its original strength, but will also, if opportunity offers, be glad to extend it even beyond that limit.

7. The progress actually made towards the completion of the original number of the Hong is certainly but small, and our knowledge of the Chinese character does not permit us to calculate with confidence upon the fulfilment of the promises of the Government hereafter. At the same time there are some arguments which support the assertion of the Viceroy, that it is impracticable to accomplish this object at the present moment. It has been stated by the Merchants, that the reluctance to engage in the foreign trade proceeds from want of confidence in the future prospect of beneficial returns to the speculator, that the embarrassments of the commerce discourage persons of property from coming forward, and that those who are now deterred by such reasons from presenting their names as candidates for admission into the Hong, may be expected, if our ships enter the port, and mercantile affairs are restored to the regular routine, to embrace with pleasure the favourable opportunity now offered to them of entering the trade upon moderate

 terms.

terms. Puankhequa, Goqua and Kinqua declared, that they were each acquainted with a person who contemplated the establishment of a Hong. There appears also to have existed a doubt whether the new Merchants would receive the assistance to be derived from a portion of the Company's business being allotted to them, upon their commencing their commercial career. We attach such importance to the attainment of new members to the Hong, that we shall give every encouragement in our power to enterprising in this line: but before we are acquainted with the character of the new Merchants, our transactions with them will necessarily be confined to the purchase of teas from them, and the sale of our imports for cash payments. An equitable discount will of course be allowed in the latter transaction for the consideration of receiving ready money. It is said, that the knowledge of our intentions in this respect will prove a great inducement to the candidates, especially when combined with the resumption of trade, and our personal appearance in Canton.

8. A Tea Merchant, named Pun-suy-lan, has been mentioned as very desirous to enter the Hong. This person's name has appeared on our records as the contractor to supply the Fokien Bohea received from the Hong of Chunqua. Though he has proved on some occasions a troublesome opponent in the tea trade, yet the energy displayed by him promises a useful addition to the body of Hong Merchants; the knowledge and connections of Pun-suy-lan would in all probability render his mercantile speculations successful; and we should feel highly gratified if he is induced to carry his project into execution.

9. The obstacle which has hitherto existed upon the part of the Government to obtaining competition in the foreign trade appears to have been overcome, as far as the principle extends, by the creation of one Hong. The manager of this is said to have been admitted upon the payment of fees to a moderate amount, and such as will by no means deter other persons from coming forward. The Viceroy has repeated the assurances formerly given of the payment of debts, and the punishment of Merchants who might be convicted of fraudulent practices; and we have expressed our willingness to rely upon the honour of the Government for the fulfilment of these promises. The point which seemed at this juncture principally to demand our attention, was, whether we were justified, under existing circumstances, in accepting the assurance of the Viceroy, that the Hong shall be restored to its original number.

10. In forming our determination upon this subject, we naturally attach great importance to what appeared to be the general impression produced on the minds of the Chinese by the suspension of our trade. The tone adopted by the Government towards the latter part of this discussion has evinced serious apprehensions of the ultimate removal of the trade; and it may be hoped that this impression will act as a powerful check upon them in future, to prevent the repeated connivance at frauds, such as characterized the brankruptcy of Manhop, and the removal of Chunqua, the latter person having been the cause of such serious inconvenience to the trade, we think will be either severely punished, or compelled to return to Canton. If it be true that the conduct of this person has been represented to Pekin, it seems hardly possible that he can escape the heavy displeasure of that Court, who must see the necessity of putting a stop to such practices, if they wish for the continuance of the trade.

11. We are rather inclined to augur favourably respecting the augmentation of the Hong. We trust that the same effect has been produced in the minds of the Chinese by the continued suspension of the trade that might have resulted from its actual removal, and that the influence of this impression will prevail for some time in checking the encroachments of the Government. Upon a review of the circumstances, there appeared a probability of obtaining an augmentation of the Hong through the encouragement we might give to the new Merchants, while the ruin of two or three of the old Hongs seemed to be the inevitable consequence of continuing the suspension of commercial intercourse.

12. Considerations of expediency were strongly in favour of an immediate adjustment of differences; the advanced period of the season admitted of no further discussion, and we were called upon to decide between the removal of the Honourable Company's ships from the port, and the sending them to Whampoa without delay; the pressure of circumstances admitted of no middle course. It still remained in our power to load and despatch the fleet from China before the arrival of the season which would preclude the hope of their effecting a direct passage to the Straits; but any further postponement of the adoption of this measure would have

have destroyed the expectation of success. The advances towards an accommodation made by the Government gave us a favourable and unexpected opportunity of accomplishing this desirable object upon honourable terms, and we considered that we should not be justified in neglecting to avail ourselves of it. The Viceroy had invited us in the most conciliatory language to resume the trade. He had given us the most positive assurances that no obstacle should be made to the completion of the original number of the Hong, and professed his wish even to extend it. The principle of opposition to the introduction of the Cohong system seemed to have been gained.

Foreign Trade with Canton.

New Hongs.

14. With reference to the considerations which have been above stated, we determined to order the Honourable Company's ships to enter the port, and commence discharging their cargoes; and we trust that this decision will receive your Honourable Court's approbation. The event must prove whether our decision has been judicious. It has been formed upon the hope that such an impression has been produced by the long suspension of our trade, as has convinced the Chinese of the necessity of making a serious attempt to restore its prosperity, and that this opinion will render the adoption of more extreme measures an alternative which may for the present be avoided. We have addressed the Viceroy in reply to that officer's last communication, stating the motives which had induced us to alter our determination of removing the Honourable Company's ships from the port, and that we have acted on a firm reliance upon the assurances which His Excellency has given, that the attainment of the important objects of the return of the elder Chunqua, the payment of the debts of that Hong, and the establishment of new Hongs, shall receive every assistance which it is in the power of the Government to render.

No. 2, of this Packet.

15. Since writing the preceding paragraphs the President has had a personal interview with the Tea Merchant, Pun-suy-lan. This person has petitioned the Government to be allowed to establish a Hong for the foreign trade. The Viceroy has passed an application to the Hoppo, by whom a demand of 20,000 tales is said to be made as the price of admission. Pun-suy-lan stated his readiness to pay this sum if it met our approval, with the object of immediately entering into the privileges of a Hong Merchant, which must be very desirable to him as a proprietor of tea to a large extent; but he was dissuaded strongly from acceding to the demand, upon the principle that a precedent would be thereby established for the assessment of all subsequent petitioners. If the application of Pun-suy-lan proves unsuccessful, we shall consider it our duty to address the Viceroy on the subject, which we trust will accelerate the settlement of this question. We feel desirous to see this person established as a Hong Merchant, not only from the hope that the example may tend to encourage others to follow the same course, but from the character of the man himself, who is said to possess firmness and resolution, which we may find useful in opposing the influence of Howqua in the Cohong.

16. We shall probably be able, by a later despatch, to communicate to your Honourable Court more decisive intelligence upon the subject of the preceding paragraph, as well as to offer an opinion respecting the disposition of the officers of Government to fulfil the assurances under which we have recommenced our commercial transactions.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 2d March 1830.

Par. 2. IN the concluding paragraph of that despatch we informed your Honourable Court, that the Tea Merchant, Pun-suy-lan, had petitioned the Government for permission to establish a Hong, but that some demur was made, arising from the fees demanded for his admission, which might render it eventually necessary for us to address the Government upon the subject.

3. Pun-suy-lan subsequently informed us, that the obstacles to the establishment of his Hong were made in the Hoppo's department, and recommended our addressing the Viceroy, as a measure likely to bring the affair to a speedy termination.

4. We therefore presented a statement to that officer, expressing a hope that his Excellency would not permit the good intentions which appeared to influence him, for restoring the prosperity of the trade, to be thwarted in any department of the Government. We further added, that we had resumed our commercial transactions under his Excellency's assurance of promoting our views in the

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creation of new Hongs upon any favourable opportunity, and that we looked with confidence to see those promises fulfilled.

5. We have the satisfaction to inform your Honourable Court, that this representation was attended with the desired effect. The Hong of Pun-suy-lan was proclaimed on the 27th instant, only two days after the presentation of our address; and the day following another new Hong was declared to have received the permission of Government to conduct the foreign trade.

6. We shall now have the honour to communicate to your Honourable Court such information as has reached us respecting the circumstances and connexions of the three Hongs newly established.

7. The Manager of the first Hong declared in the Viceroy's Edict, recorded upon our Secret Consultations under date the 5th ultimo, is one of several brothers, amongst whom a considerable property was divided upon the death of their father, but which left but a moderate sum as the share of each of them. One of the brothers is the manager of a silversmith's shop formerly conducted by the father, who traded also largely in sycee. The name of the new merchant is Yen-ke Tseang; the Hong's name is Hing Tae. To avoid confusion of names in future we shall adopt the name of the Hong to designate the individual who manages it. This mode of denomination appears the most correct, as it has reference to the firm, and can never be changed; the names of persons in China are constantly altered, according to the caprice of the individual, and this habit prevails to such a degree that Europeans experience the greatest difficulty in ascertaining the correct appellation of any native.

8. The second newly established firm, under the management of Pun-suy-lan, is called Chong Wo. Pun-suy-lan's correct name is Puan-wun-taou, in the Mandarin dialect, or Pun-mun-to in that of the province of Canton. This person has long been engaged in the tea trade, in which he amassed a property of considerable amount; he is a native of the province of Fokien. We understand that he has sustained a heavy loss in his dealings with the Hong of Chunqua. This is said to amount to 100,000 dollars, but he is still represented to be a man possessed of large property, and his character stands high amongst his countrymen. We view the accession of this person to the body of Hong Merchants as a most desirable addition to their number. If capital to a certain extent, managed by a man of knowledge in the tea trade, and acuteness of understanding, can thrive in the foreign commerce, it has now a fair prospect of success.

9. The third Merchant acknowledged by the Government is named Ma-tooleang, in the Mandarin dialect; the name of the Hong is Shun Tae. This person has been many years engaged in foreign trade, both in Canton and at Macao, and is well spoken of by Europeans who have dealt with him. He is himself possessed of some property, and is connected with a partner, who is spoken of as being in very independent circumstances. The partner was engaged in the opium trade, and banished for some offence to Elee, from whence he has returned several years, the punishment of exile having been remitted upon the payment of a fine. This man is said to have been the projector of the new Hong, and to possess the largest share of the capital invested in it, but in consequence of the circumstance above alluded to he could not appear ostensibly as the manager of the firm. We entertain hopes that this Hong may prove useful to the foreign trade.

10. It is extremely satisfactory to us to find that the Government has fulfilled its promises of the creation of new Hongs, as the faith kept upon one point encourages the hope that it will be maintained in others. We hear there are still persons desirous of being made Merchants, and shall perhaps be able hereafter to report further accessions to the Hong.

11. It appears that Chong Wo Hong has been permitted to conduct trade without obtaining the security of the other Hong Merchants; the Hong will therefore be responsible for its own debts, and these, if incurred, can produce no injury to the remaining members. This is an innovation which we have constantly suggested to the Government during the late discussion, and which it appears they have now adopted spontaneously, although unwilling to appear to do it at our suggestion; we would gladly see every Merchant placed upon this independent footing, and hope it may continue to prevail in the creation of all the new firms. Although we believe that private traders would contend for the preservation of the old system, which enables them to entail a debt, by means of the necessities or imprudence of the indigent Merchants, under the security of the more wealthy, we shall always view the abolition of so unjust a regulation, as calculated by raising the independence

dence of the merchants to give vigour and energy to the trade, and consider it the first step towards improvement.

12. While this regulation prevails there can, to all appearances, be little difficulty in procuring additional members to the Hong. The impediments which must be expected from the old Merchants under the former system, are principally removed, and a prospect of something resembling free trade is open to us. The only existing obstacle would seem to be the disinclination to encourage competition, which must for some time continue to pervade the established Hongs; but we trust that this may wear away with time, as our intercourse with the natives improves.

Foreign Trade with Canton.

New Hongs.

13. We are unable to give your Honourable Court any certain intelligence respecting the elder Chunqua's return to Canton. Numerous rumours are afloat, upon none of which dependence can be placed. In the meantime we have considered it advisable entirely to withdraw our commercial dealings with the Hong of Chunqua, with the view of marking our determination to give no encouragement to the acts of dishonesty which have characterized its management, as well as with reference to the utter inability of the Hong, in its present embarrassed condition, to conduct our trade. The continuation of our support would have answered no purpose beyond the liquidation of the debts of European creditors, and your Honourable Court have already expressed your dissatisfaction with that mode of conducting business, in reference to the bankrupt Hongs preserved from insolvency through the assistance of the Honourable Company in the season 1813–14. Our aid in this instance would, in fact, have tended to perpetuate a system which we are desirous to abolish, and which we hope in time will become extinct. We have also considered it judicious to give every encouragement in our power to the new Hongs, which the shares of our trade, vacated by the suspension of our dealings with Chunqua, enable us to offer. At the same time, if the former partner of that Hong should hereafter return and be willing to re-establish the firm, we shall be ready to resume our transactions with the Hong, though perhaps under a reduction of their original extent, till the credit of the establishment has been restored by a course of prudent and upright management.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 30th March 1830.

Par. 45. WE shall endeavour, as far as it is practicable, to conform to the wishes of your Honourable Court, expressed in the paragraphs under reply; but we beg to remark, that instances will occur in which we may be compelled to depart from these instructions. As the Chinese Government avoid as much as possible direct communication with foreigners, they frequently enforce their measures through the medium of the Hong Merchants or other natives. Exactions and restrictions are thus heaped upon the foreign trade, through an indirect channel, and would daily increase, if we allowed their progress to pass unnoticed. We may here instance an occasion in which our prompt interference caused the immediate attainment of a very important point to the interests of the Honourable Company, although made in favour of persons with whom we are totally unconnected. We allude to our address to the Vice-roy respecting the demands made by the Hoppo, on the application of the manager of Chong Wo Hong, to enter upon the foreign trade. The result of that remonstrance was most successful.

Public Consultations, 25 Feb. 1830.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Honourable Court of Directors, dated 18th September 1830.

Par. 6. WE have much satisfaction in announcing to your Honourable Court that two more Hong Merchants have lately been added to the four admitted into the Cohong last season.

7. We are at present without the necessary information regarding the character and capability of these men to offer an opinion as to their individual merits; but we greatly rejoice at the circumstance, and trust that one of the principal barriers formerly existing to the extension of the Cohong (we allude to the exorbitant fees on the creation of a new Merchant) is removed.

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EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 28th January 1831.

Redress of Grievances, &c.

Par. 26. AN Address to the Governor, strongly recommending the creation of more Hong Merchants, as a measure mutually advantageous to both parties, has been drawn up, and will be found recorded on our Public Consultations, transmitted by the present despatch.

Public Consultation, 25 January.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 11th February 1831.

Par. 5. YOUR Honourable Court has already been informed that we deemed it our duty to address the Governor of Canton, urging the advantages which must arise to English as well as Chinese interests by the election of more Hong Merchants, who were men of credit and character. We have received a most favourable reply from his Excellency, admitting the justice of our application for the creation of substantial Merchants, and expressing, in language more distinct than is generally characteristic of a Chinese Proclamation, that "the more" there were "the better." A copy of this document will accompany our present despatch. It will become our duty to remind his Excellency of the wisdom of his determination, should any unnecessarily protracted delays take place in the accomplishment of so desirable an object.

(28.)—RESPECTING THE TRADE IN OPIUM.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors, dated 21st Nov. 1821.

Opium Trade.

Par. 34. ON our Secret Records, under the dates noticed in the margin, your Honourable Committee will perceive the measures so frequently threatened by the Chinese Government to check the Opium Trade at this port have been recently renewed.

Secret Consultations, Nov. 11, 12 & 14.

35. If we may believe the statements of the Merchants, the intentions of the local government are to be regarded as more determined than they have ever formerly been; but as our communications with the Merchants have as yet been solely confined to a relation of their conferences with the officers of Government upon this subject, and as we have not been officially appealed to, we cannot help expressing our doubts as to the actual extent of the danger impending over the Opium Trade.

36. Your Honourable Committee will perceive, however, that Pinqua has been deprived of his Button, and that the Merchants have been more than usually solicitous with us, to interfere in recommending the individuals concerned in this traffic to withdraw their ships from the port.

37. It is no more than natural that men incurring the heavy responsibility of Hong Merchants, and acting in that capacity under a Government the most arbitrary and despotic perhaps in the universe, should feel the utmost solicitude at a moment when they are threatened with the heavy visitations of that Government, and we do most sincerely feel for their situations; but we do not conceive it would be either prudent or politic to take any part in this matter, unless it is especially required from us from Government, by a more sufficient communication than messages, and we have hitherto declined all interference.

38. We must beg to refer your Honourable Committee to our Secret Proceedings under the dates alluded to, for the particulars of the communications of the Hong Merchants on this important subject. The origin of the inquiry into the Opium transactions is variously stated, some asserting it to arise from the personal enmity of the Quongchow Foo to Pinqua, others to the more venal source of desiring to extort money.

39. But to whatever source it owes its rise, the situation of the Merchants has become exceedingly critical, accused on one side of former wilful neglect, they are threatened on the other with the severest punishments if they do not report the ships concerned in this illicit traffic to Government, and such is now become the weight of

of their responsibility, that they have declared to us they must lodge information against those ships unless they speedily quit the port.

40. They further have intimated to us that in future bonds will be required from the Company's ships, declaring that there is no Opium on board, as well as from every other vessel entering the port, and until such bond is given they will be obliged to decline securing the ship.

41. This question is by no means a novel one to your Honourable Committee; a reference to former proceedings will show that similar demands were made in 1817, and subsequently dropped, such may only be the intention at present, but appearances lead us to believe this demand may be persisted in, and as it is one of an extremely objectionable nature, and if complied with, calculated to establish a precedent of the worst description, we shall feel it our duty to proceed with the utmost caution in assenting to it.

45. Since writing the preceding paragraphs respecting Opium, we have seen the Viceroy's Edict to Pekin on the subject of that commerce, and the Merchants have delivered to us a copy of the Viceroy's letter to them respecting it. From these documents it will be satisfactory to your Honourable Committee to observe that no imputation is cast upon the Honourable Company's ships for being concerned in this illicit traffic. Secret Consultations, 15 & 19 Nov.

46. The measure of compelling the Opium ships to quit the port we conceive must be enforced, if the agents for them have any regard for the safety of the property at stake. The Hong Merchants have reported the names of these ships to Government, and the Viceroy has, in consequence, ordered one half of their regular import cargo to be confiscated, and has refused to allow any return cargo to be shipped, insisting even upon the re-landing of that already sent on board; and we hear that Government have further threatened to send down a force to Whampoa to seal the ships' hatches, and enforce their departure.

47. From all these circumstances your Honourable Committee will both perceive and be able to judge of the determination of the local government to effectually suppress this illicit commerce, and if they firmly pursue their present system, it cannot continue to be carred on as heretofore.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors, dated 11th March 1822.

Par. 16. IN our address to your Honourable Committee, per Herefordshire, of the 21st of November last, par. 34 and 41, we stated that the measures so frequently threatened by the Chinese Government for checking the Opium Trade at this port, had been recently renewed.

17. These measures have since been persisted in by the Viceroy of Canton, with such a degree of pertinacity, as to occasion the most serious interruption to this important branch of trade to China.

18. Among the regulations which the Viceroy is endeavouring to establish for preventing the introduction of Opium into China, that one is perhaps of most serious importance to the continuation of the traffic at Whampoa, which proposes that all foreign ships should be secured by the four Senior Merchants, who are the only opulent and respectable Hongs.

19. By this it is meant, that on the arrival of a ship, each of these four Merchants in rotation should give a bond to Government, conveying their responsibility that no Opium is imported in her; and for their more certain security, a counter-bond is required from the commanders or agents of ships before the Merchants give their pledge to Government, without which the ship is not permitted to trade.

20. This regulation is founded upon a plan submitted to Government by the Merchants themselves, which will be found in our Secret Records on the 20th November last. At the period it was recommended by the Merchants, they little imagined it would be productive of all the evils now to be apprehended in its exercise, and we believe they now sincerely lament the opportunity they have thus unwarily afforded Government of practising additional extortion and oppression in their several Hongs.

21. In the 45th par. of our letter to your Honourable Committee, per Herefordshire, we stated that the Merchants had intimated to us, that in future bonds would

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be required from the Honourable Company's ships, in common with every other ship, and that until granted they could not undertake to secure them.

22. Conformably with this intimation, we have now to inform your Honourable Committee that a bond has been demanded from the Commander of the Scaleby Castle, immediately on the arrival of that ship at Whampoa, and the same having hitherto been withheld, that ship, as well as the Vansittart, have not yet been permitted to discharge their cargoes.

23. Your Honourable Committee, in your letter to China of the 8th May 1818, have enjoined our conceding the point of giving bonds, if demanded by the Chinese Government rather than renew the discussion of 1814 upon this subject, and the spirit of these instructions furnished to us in that letter, according to our interpretation, generally recommend acquiescence in the wishes of this Government. We conceive, however, that these instructions never could have contemplated the pernicious tendency of the affidavits now demanded.

24. These affidavits require an extension of security beyond every reasonable limit; namely, that the parties subscribing them should affirm that not the smallest particle of opium is imported in the ship; and should it so happen that any is hereafter detected, they assent cheerfully to submit to the laws, or in other words, consent to confiscation of property, and expulsion from the port.

25. The cases of the Gunner of the Essex in 1819–20, and the more recent one of the Captain's Steward of the Atlas in the present season, are quite sufficient of themselves to show the impossibility of our being security against the introduction of Opium in our own ships, and the dangerous consequences that might ensue if we consented to subscribe to this affidavit.

26. By the securities now demanded, it will be evident to your Honourable Committee that a very important part of the Hong Merchants' responsibility is virtually transferred to foreigners; and if such an innovation is acceded to, a precedent is established for others which may finally be productive of the worst consequences to the European trade with China.

27. So long as the requisitions of Government were of a nature that did not involve in their consequences serious injury to the Honourable Company's interests, we should have considered it our duty to adhere implicitly to the Honourable Court's Orders of the 8th May 1818; but the present demands are of such an opposite tendency, that we feel it imperative upon us to resist them to the utmost of our ability.

28. We accordingly drew up a temperate remonstrance against such a serious innovation on our trade addressed to the Viceroy and Hoppo, representing to them our anxious wish that the Government will not persist in requiring affidavits from the ships of the Honourable Company, which he has already acquitted of participating in the Opium Trade of this port.

29. We are concerned to inform your Honourable Committee, that this address has not produced any relaxation in the demands of the Viceroy, who desired the Hong Merchants to inform us that he could make no distinction between the Company's ships and those of other foreigners; and that if we could not comply with the regulation respecting affidavits, the two ships now at Whampoa could not remain there.

30. Having only received this reply from the Viceroy yesterday, it is impossible for us, in the present state of this question, to conjecture how it may be terminated; but we hope to be able to convey to your Honourable Committee some more definitive information upon the subject by the ships composing the next despatch.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors, dated 19th March 1822.

Par. 1. IN our last address, dated 11th instant, we stated to your Honourable Committee that his Excellency the Viceroy, in reply to the temperate remonstrance we had addressed to him on the subject of his demand for Opium Bonds from the Honourable Company's ships Scaleby Castle and Vansittart, had informed us generally that he could make no distinction between the Company's ships and those of other foreigners, and that the proposed affidavits would be requisite before those ships could be permitted to unload.

2. Some

2. Some of the observations contained in the reply of the Viceroy affording us an opportunity of again addressing him, we once more had recourse to this measure; and in a letter which we transmitted on the 15th instant, we endeavoured to convince his Excellency of the great unreasonableness of persisting in this requisition from the ships of the Honourable Company, who during their long intercourse with China had never evaded the regular duties of the port, and with respect to Opium, had not only invariably promulgated the Imperial Edicts prohibiting its importation, but also had imposed the strictest penalties on such persons, under their immediate control, who might be detected attempting its introduction.

3. We are now happy to inform your Honourable Committee that the Viceroy, since the receipt of this last communication, has been induced to reconsider and dispense with the requisition for Opium Bonds from the Scaleby Castle and Vansittart, and we are assured by the Merchants that after certain forms of office are complied with, these ships will be permitted to discharge their cargoes and receive their teas without further impediments.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Public Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 27th July 1823.

Par. 18. WE have the honour to inclose to your Honourable Court three Edicts received from the different officers of the Canton Government, on the subject of the ships remaining on the coast laden with Opium, and our reply thereto. We were desirous to avoid the slightest implication on the part of the Honourable Company, and at the same time not oppose unnecessary impediments to the trade. The arguments we have taken up, although specious, cannot be maintained should the Viceroy place any obstacles to our commercial transactions dependent upon the departure of the vessels in question.

Nos. 1 to 3.

19. In the margin we have noted the number and names of the British vessels, and we are in hopes the Government will continue for some time silent and inoffensive. In April last, however, the Viceroy resorted to the usual measure of exacting the responsibility of the trade by preventing the departure of the Pascoa (the only British vessel then at Whampoa) until the Opium vessels departed from their places of resort on the coast; and should he in the present season adopt a similar line of conduct in regard to the Honourable Company's ships, and our remonstrances prove of no effect, in obedience to the orders of your Honourable Court to that purport, we must require the departure of those vessels so long as they afford any impediment to the commercial proceedings of the Honourable Company.

British Ships:

Valetta - - -	Bengal.
Eugenia - - -	D°.
Merope - - -	D°.
Samarang -	Bombay.
Brig Jamesina -	D°.

Foreign Brigs

1 American.
2 Spanish.
1 Portuguese.

EXTRACT LETTER in the Secret Department, from the Select Committee at Canton to the Court of Directors, dated 6th February 1824.

Par. 81. WE have at different periods entered upon our Public Consultations, the several Edicts that have been issued by the Canton Government for the expulsion of the Opium ships from the coast of China. The only instance in which they have lately acted up to their declaration, was in the month of May last, when a country ship at Whampoa was precluded from trading until the departure of the only British ship then engaged in that commerce from the coast.

82. Our representations to the local government at that period, and previously, of our inability to compel ships to depart from the coast that had not reported themselves, or even entered the port, was attended with the result that in the Edicts that were issued on the subject, the omission of our names was for some time noticed, until a recent address was received from the Hoppo, in which it was distinctly stated that the commerce of the Honourable Company would be considered implicated in any accidents that might arise in the prosecution of the traffic in Opium on board of ships bearing the English flag; and that the representatives of other nations would be held responsible in a similar manner for accidents occurring amongst the Opium ships bearing their respective flags.

83. We considered it a proper precautionary measure to address the Bengal Government with all the information we could collect upon the subject, and at the same

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same time to inform them of the injunctions of your Honourable Court that we should on no account permit the Opium Trade to interfere with the regular process of our commercial transactions; but that in the event of such a circumstance arising, we should be necessitated to erect our influence and power to demand the departure of the ships thus employed, should such an object be made necessary previous to the removal of any obstacles the Chinese Government might oppose to the commerce of the Honourable Company.

84. We are, however, induced to hope that the distinction is now understood, or rather that it suits the views of the local government to impede the commerce of the country ships, when it is desired to act up to their Edicts on the subject, in preference to rendering the Honourable Company responsible in circumstances where they have neither immediate interest nor control.

Residence of European Females.

CORRESPONDENCE relating to the Residence of European Females in the Company's Factory at Canton, and the Restriction against using Chinese Chair-bearers.

Public Department,	23d October 1830,	paragraphs	9 a' 18.
Ditto - ditto -	15th Nov. - -	—	57 a' 61.
Ditto - ditto -	15th Dec. - -	—	9 a' 13.
Ditto - ditto -	1st January 1831	—	9 & 10.
Ditto - ditto -	11th February -	—	6.

For these paragraphs, see the Letters adverted to, presented to the Select Committee the 12th July 1831, pp. 26–30 of this Appendix.

Death of Mr. Mackenzie.

CORRESPONDENCE relating to the Death of Mr. Mackenzie.

Public Department, 23d October 1830, paragraphs 4 a' 8. 14. 15 & 18.

For these paragraphs, see the Letter adverted to, presented to the Select Committee the 12th July 1831, pp. 45, 46 of this Appendix.

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